

Hafa Adai!

SUNDAY

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should MPLT grant
CUC's loan
application for \$4.5
million so it could
rent power engines
from Aggreko to
stabilize Saipan's
power supply?

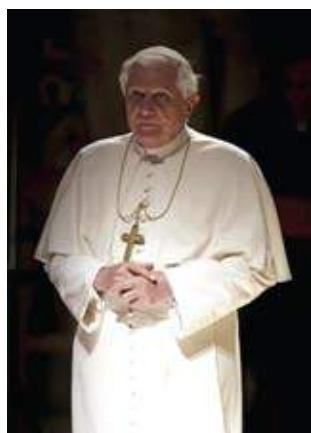
Let your voice be heard!
Go to
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Crane Collapse

One of the nation's largest mobile cranes collapses at a Houston oil refinery, killing four workers.

NATION...Page 17



'Sorry'

Pope Benedict XVI apologizes to victims of child sex abuse by Roman Catholic clergy.

WORLD...Page 18

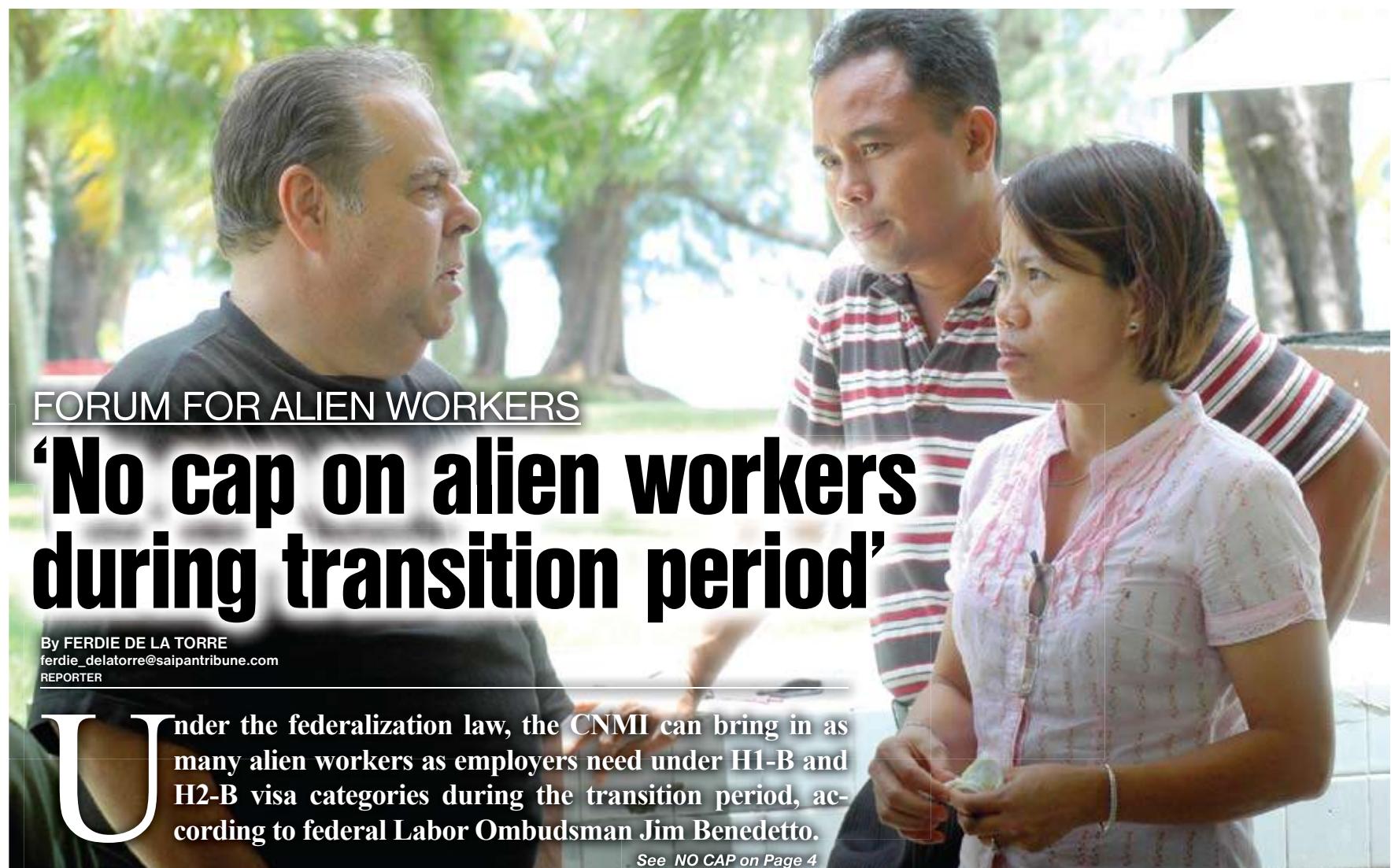


Record Debut

"The Dark Knight" lit up cash registers during its debut, stealing away with a record \$18.5 million.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 22

CNMI, FSM drop out of Pacific arts festival. **PAGE 2**
Pre-positioned ships use tech to treat waste. **PAGE 5**



FORUM FOR ALIEN WORKERS

'No cap on alien workers during transition period'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Under the federalization law, the CNMI can bring in as many alien workers as employers need under H1-B and H2-B visa categories during the transition period, according to federal Labor Ombudsman Jim Benedetto.

See NO CAP on Page 4

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Labor director Barry Hirsbein talks with Coalition of United Workers (NMI) president Irene Tantiado and Ronnie B. Doca shortly after the forum at Kilili Beach Saturday.

Bush, Iraq PM agree to time 'horizon' on Iraq troop cuts

Senate confirms Villagomez to CPA board

Administration moves to complete board

By TERENCE HUNT
AP WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush and Iraq's prime minister

have agreed to set a "general time horizon" for bringing more U.S. troops home from the war, a dramatic shift from

See BUSH on Page 4

The Senate voted unanimously yesterday to confirm former Tidian Sen. Manuel Villagomez as an appointee to the Commonwealth Ports Authority's board of directors.

Manuel Villagomez joins former CPA chairman Joe Lifoifoi, who has been asked to rescind his May 16 resignation from the CPA board.

Manuel Villagomez served

See SENATE on Page 4

OTHER NOMINEES

- Thomas Villagomez
- Absalon Waki Jr.
- Frank Camacho
- Miriam Seman
- Barry Toves



President Bush pauses as he speaks with reporters after arriving at Ellington Field Friday, July 18, 2008 in Houston.

Court wants FBI to examine the bank records of ex-Marpac GM

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson yesterday postponed again the sentencing of a former Marianas Pacific Distributors general manager who entered a guilty plea last year to charges he defrauded Marpac of \$520,000.

After consulting with de-

fense attorney Colin Thompson and assistant U.S. attorney Beverly McCallum during yesterday's hearing, Munson continued the sentencing of Joseph Vincent Santos to Sept. 16, 2008, at 9am so that the Federal Bureau of Investigation could research the de-

fendant's bank records.

Munson said there are too

many questions regarding

Santos' bank records that need

to be clarified.

The judge ordered that Santos

remain at liberty under the same

terms and conditions as the court

had previously set.

Santos pleaded

guilty to mail

fraud in September 2007.

See COURT on Page 4



Around the CNMI

CNMI, FSM drop out of Pacific arts festival

By FILI SAGAPOLUTELE

PACIFIC MAGAZINE

The number of delegates attending the 10th Festival of the Pacific Arts continues to decline as two more countries will not attend the festival, which officially opens on Monday, a festival official says.

Vanuatu and Tuvalu have already canceled out due to financial constraints of their governments.

It was late morning today (Friday local time) that the organizing committee received word that the U.S. territory of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Federated State of Micronesia will not take part, due to unavailability of seats on Hawaiian Airlines out of Honolulu to Pago Pago.

"We are saddened that our two island neighbors will not be able to join us for this festive event because they were unable to secure

seats on flights to Pago Pago," said co-chair Fagafaga Daniel Langkidle late Friday afternoon.

CNMI had planned to bring a 100-member delegation while FSM with 87 and both were to have been housed at the Kanana Fou complex.

A festival official told *Pacific Magazine* that as of Friday evening the number of delegates has dropped to just below 2,000 performers and artists.

Meanwhile, the Department of Health has decided not to include free condoms in "safe festival" packs distributed to delegates housed at the Kanana Fou complex, headquarters of the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa, the largest faith in the territory.

Since Friday morning there were unconfirmed reports of a senior official at Kanana Fou opposing the distribution of condoms at the compound and

this comes on the heels of opposition voiced by Bishop J. Quinn Weitzel, leader of the Diocese of Samoa Pago Pago.

With the help of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, DOH plans to distribute today "safe festival" pack-bags to all delegates. Each packet includes health information, HIV/STI brochures, a sun visor, wipes, a water bottle, mini-first aid kit and a package of male condoms and a female condom package.

DOH medical director Dr. Ivan Tuliau said he met earlier Friday with two Kanana Fou officials about the condom issue. "And out of respect for Kanana Fou, I've made the decision not to include condoms in the packs for delegates that will be housed at Kanana Fou," said Tuliau, who noted that condoms will still be included in packs for delegates housed at other festival accommodations.

"We fully understand the views of our religious leaders regarding this sensitive issue," he said.

Tuliau said DOH and SPC will have condoms available

to any delegate who request it and a telephone number will be provided to delegates and others wanting not only condoms but other health information during

the two-week festival.

The Kanana Fou complex is housing the majority of the participants, while the rest are spread out at public school compounds.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CUC FORUM

Ed Propst gestures as he speaks to members of the community during the CUC community forum at the Chacha Oceanview Jr. High School in Kagman Thursday afternoon.

LOAD SHEDDING SCHEDULE

As rehabilitation and maintenance repairs continue on the engines and generators at the Power Plant 1, the load shedding schedule for July 19 through July 25, 2008 will be as follows.

8am - 10am **Feeder-2: Second Partial**

Fishing Base south to San Jose Intersection

10am - 12pm **Kiya-1: First Partial**

Kana Tabla, Botanical Garden, San Vicente, Dandan, Airport Road, Isley Field, Lower Dandan

12pm - 2pm **Kiya-2: Second Partial**

Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas

2pm - 4pm **Feeder-1: Second & Third Partial**

99 Cents Store and portions of Garapan and Upper Navy Hill, Anaks Condominiums

4pm - 6pm **Feeder-7: Entire Grid**

Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi

6pm - 8pm **Feeder-4: Second Partial**

Capitol Hill, As Teo, Kagman and portions of Papago

8pm - 10pm **Kiya-4: Second Partial**

Susupe, Mount Carmel south to portions of Chalan Kanoa and Chalan Kiya Village

The first partial in each of the respective feeder/kiya could be included in the schedule should the second partial be insufficient. Water and wastewater services will be affected in the respective areas as a result of the power outages. This schedule may be modified in future public notices. It may also be altered to address particular emergencies when necessary. (CUC)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Licensing board sets meeting

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, the Health Care Professions Licensing Board is giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on Thursday, July 24, 2008 at 3pm on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Secretary's Conference Room No. 2 at the Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center for Public Health and Dialysis Center, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan. (PR)

Village meetings schedule

Rep. Joseph C. Reyes would like to hear your concerns and ideas affecting our community. Please come to our village meeting and make yourself be heard in addressing the issues we are facing today.

San Vicente and Dandan

Dandan Elementary

Cafeteria

July 23, 6pm

San Antonio Com-

munity Center

July 30, 6pm

Koblerville

Southern High School Cafeteria

Aug. 6, 6pm

Live fire training on Farallon

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla on July 21-25, from 7am to 7pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from the area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

See COMMUNITY on Page 4

Special Theme Lunch!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	*SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Korean	Japanese	Chinese	Authentic Teppanyaki	Seafood	Family	Sunday Brunch & Magic Show

Monday to Saturday \$16.99 per person
Sunday Brunch \$25 per person
Childrens 5 to 11 years old half price

VIP/Local Discounts Apply
***Restriction Apply**
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Domestic fight lands victim in hospital

A woman landed in the hospital after her common-law husband allegedly beat her up during an argument that started over clothes Wednesday night.

The victim suffered multiple injuries to the head and face and had a lacerated lip and fractured cheekbone. She was admitted at the Commonwealth Health

Center for further observation.

George R. Aguon, 43, was arrested for assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and interfering with a domestic

violence report.

A \$5,000 cash bail was initially imposed for Aguon's temporary liberty. He was taken to the Superior Court Friday afternoon for a bail hearing.

Detective Andrea C. Ozawa stated in her report that the beating happened in the presence of an eight-year-old child.

Ozawa said police investigation showed that prior to the beating, Aguon and his wife had gone out to do laundry. When

they arrived at their house in Kagman I, the argument began. At the height of the argument, Aguon allegedly picked up a knife, pulled the victim's hair and put the weapon on her neck. Aguon threatened to kill the victim, then punched her face, causing her to black out, police said.

A household member told police that the defendant punched the victim's face four times, causing her to fall. The witness tried to call the po-

lice using the residential phone, but the suspect allegedly chopped the phone line with the same knife he used to threaten the victim.

The witness ran to a nearby store and asked the storekeeper to call the police.

When a responding police officer arrived at the house, Aguon had already fled. The defendant, however, surrendered to the Department of Public Safety the following morning, Thursday. (Ferdie de la Torre)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FUKUOKA DELEGATION

Delegates from the 20th Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Convention, along with their parents, pose for a souvenir shot with the Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry John P. Tenorio during their courtesy visit on May 21, 2008. He congratulated the delegates on their nomination. The annual Convention will take place in Fukuoka, Japan, July 11-23, 2008.

USDA awards over \$180K in business grants

HILO, Hawaii—Hawaii State Director Lorraine P. Shin recently announced the award of Rural Business Enterprise grants totaling \$182,000 to three non-profit organizations. They are Big Island Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.; Pacific Gateway Center; and Rural Community Assistance Corp.

The Big Island RC&D, with a \$42,000 grant, will assist Cordon Technologies, LLC in planning their development to expand the slaughterhouse operation in Paauilo. Pacific Gateway Center will utilize their \$95,000 grant to expand on their relending program to serve small and under-served rural businesses. RCAC was approved for \$45,000 to provide technical assistance to develop a comprehensive marketing study to guide new business and expansion ventures on the Island

of Molokai. "Assisting small and emerging rural businesses are critical to our mission to deliver economic opportunity to rural communities," Shin said.

The Rural Business Enterprise Grant is a business developmental grant program that promotes sustainable economic development in rural communities with exceptional need. The purpose of the RBEG is to assist public bodies and non-profit corporations finance and facilitate development of small and emerging private business enterprises located in areas outside the boundary of a city of 50,000 or more and its immediately adjacent urbanized area.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$90 billion since

2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.4 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. (USDA)

Health advocates from a myriad of government agencies gathered yesterday in the Department of Public Health's conference room to discuss their plans for September's Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Awareness month.

The awareness program facilitates the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, which promotes better mental health for people of all ages. The nationwide event will also raise awareness and understanding of mental health issues, mental illness and substance abuse.

The committee also discussed issues relating to the Prevention Program Fair, Challenge Masters, Tobacco Prevention

Health advocates plan SAPtember Month

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jacquie.delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Education Workshop, smoke-free establishments and youth advocacy.

This year's theme is "Join the voice for recovery: Real people, Real recovery."

"This is the 19th year of the establishment of the program," said committee chair Tony Benavente.

"A highlight of the meeting was the discussion of the Mass that will kick off on Aug. 21, [and] the proclamation signing on Aug. 27," he added.

The group will meet again

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*Golf Clubs *Water Cooler *Lagoon
Boat *Portable MP3-Sony-NEW *Color
TV *Clothes/Shoes *5Kw Power
Generator *Big Ice Chest *Wood Table

PLENTY MORE

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

PTI would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on July 22nd, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before July 22nd.

**THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION
PTI CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.**

Per an earlier announcement, PTI is no longer mailing out past due notices as of 11/01/06.

* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than July 22nd. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service please call Customer Service at **682-4PTI (4784)** or visit our Customer Service Representatives at our Chalan Lau-Lau Office.



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Weekend Get Away

Over night Stay with Special Sunday Lunch for 2

\$99.00 Plus free entrance to Club V

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234-6601 ext. 301-302**

BUSH**From Page 1**

the administration's once-ironclad unwillingness to talk about any kind of deadline or timetable.

The announcement Friday put Bush in the position of offering to talk with Iraqi leaders about a politically charged issue that he adamantly has refused to discuss with the Democratic-led Congress at home. It also could complicate the presidential campaign arguments of Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama who have staked out starkly opposite stands about the unpopular war.

What's changed? The sharp reduction in violence in Iraq - to the lowest level in four years - has made the country's leaders increasingly confident and more assertive about its sovereignty, giving rise to demands for a specific plan for American forces to leave.

Iraq has leverage because the White House is struggling to salvage negotiations for a long-term agreement covering U.S. military operations there. The

White House said its goal is to conclude that deal by the end of this month.

Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki talked about the stalled negotiations during a secure video conference on Thursday, agreeing "on a common way forward to conclude these negotiations as soon as possible," a White House statement said.

The two leaders agreed that improvements in security should allow for the negotiations "to include a general time horizon for meeting aspirational goals, such as the resumption of Iraqi security control in their cities and provinces and the further reduction of U.S. combat forces from Iraq," the White House said.

Bush repeatedly has vetoed legislation approved by Congress setting deadlines for American troop cutbacks.

Friday's White House statement was intentionally vague and did not specify what kind of timelines were envisioned. That allows Iraqi officials, who are facing elections in the fall, to argue they are not beholden to Washington or willing to tolerate a permanent military presence in Iraq. For Bush, it points

the way toward a legal framework for keeping American troops in Iraq after a U.N. mandate expires on Dec. 31.

"The agreement will look at goal dates for transition of responsibilities and missions," said Gordon Johndroe, spokesman for Bush's National Security Council. "The focus is on the Iraqi assumption of missions, not on what troop levels will be."

As for the campaign to elect a new commander in chief, McCain firmly opposes any withdrawal timetable while Obama pledges to pull out combat troops within 16 months. By talking about a "time horizon," Bush appeared at odds with McCain and could make his own GOP administration a tougher target for Obama's anti-war barbs.

McCain issued a statement saying, "Progress between the United States and Iraq on a time horizon for American troop presence is further evidence that the surge has succeeded.... If we had followed Sen. Obama's policy, Iraq would have descended into chaos, American casualties would be far higher, and the region would be destabilized."

Probation Office to locate the \$500,000 that was previously in the bank accounts of Santos.

Munson directed the Probation Office to research when Santos' bank accounts were closed and what the balance was at that time.

Munson requested the Probation Office to determine where the \$500,000 is today, or if it was spent, how the money was spent, and the types of purchased items.

The judge stated that a determination should also be made as to where the \$50,000 bond posted by the defendant at the CNMI Superior Court and the \$10,000 property bond posted in the federal court came from.

Munson again re-set the sentencing

to Feb. 26 then to June 2, then to June 23, and July 18.

The prosecution said that between January 2003 and in April 2006, Santos made a total \$521,813.40 in unexplained cash deposits into four separate bank accounts.

Marpac is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ambros Inc., a corporation in Guam. As a franchisee of Anheuser-Busch, Marpac sells beer products to retail vendors on Saipan.

The prosecution said that between January 2003 and April 2006, the defendant "devised a scheme and artifice to defraud Marpac and obtain money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises."

detto said.

H2-B visas, on the other hand, are for temporary occupations, of which a vast majority of alien workers in the CNMI belong to. Benedetto said these are unskilled workers like cooks, waiters, landscapers or the people that work in the hotels, tourism industry or customer service.

Benedetto said those are supposed to be temporary jobs and the way the regulations under the Immigration and Naturalization Act interpret it, temporary means no more than a year.

"I know that some of you are working for hotels, or for airlines and you're in occupational categories that would normally be considered H2-B. But your employers need you all the time, not just temporarily for a year at a time," he said.

Benedetto said there is a problem under this category because the Department of Homeland Security is drafting regulations that give some flexibility to this type of occupations.

"There's going to have other solutions because under the current regulations as they apply to the United States mainland, you're not allowed to re-hire the same person over and over every year. Only one year," he said.

There is a third category—H2-A—which is for seasonal agricultural workers.

"That would be like farmers and things like that. There is no cap on them. So we don't have to worry that we might not get a slot," he said.

He said an employer could sponsor a farmer who fits the normal require-

ments of an H2-A visa.

Another way that alien workers could get a more permanent status to work in the CNMI is what the new law calls the Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker Program.

Benedetto said if an employer cannot qualify a worker under H1-B, H2-B or H2-A or any other existing visa category, the worker can still be authorized to work here in the CNMI under the Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker Program.

"That means a guest worker program. It might look something like what we have now or it might be a lot simpler. It might be a lot more complex. Nobody knows really what that is going to look like because they have not drafted the regulations yet," he said.

But as long as the transition period lasts, Benedetto stressed, the federally administered guest worker program will exist.

"My guess is that the vast majority of you that do not fit under H1-B, or H2-B or H2-A categories will probably qualify under the Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker Program," the ombudsman told participants in the forum.

Rep. Tina Sablan, who was also the other speaker at the forum, answered some of the questions and the status of House Bill 16-86.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that the workers wanted to get an update on federalization and their hopes for improved status.

"I really was just there to give an update of where the bill is in the com-

COURT**From Page 1**

Munson accepted Santos's plea and set the sentencing for Dec. 11, 2007, then re-set it to Jan. 3, 2008.

On Jan. 3, 2008, the sentencing was re-set for Jan. 23, 2008, after the parties in the case agreed to postpone the hearing.

One reason cited at the Jan. 23 hearing for the continuance is that Santos's counsel, Thompson, was scheduled to be off-island on the original Jan. 3 sentencing schedule. The prosecutor at the time was also leaving the island.

On Jan. 23, 2008, the court again re-set the sentencing to Feb. 26, 2008. Munson then stated he wants the U.S.

Probation Office to locate the \$500,000 that was previously in the bank accounts of Santos.

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"That would be like farmers and things like that. There is no cap on them. So we don't have to worry that we might not get a slot," he said.

He said an employer could sponsor a farmer who fits the normal require-

NO CAP**From Page 1**

"If Bill Gates or Steve Jobs from Microsoft and Apple Computer... want to bring in and start a new computer programming center and bring in 1,000 or 10,000 H1-B workers, they could do it—at least during the transition period," Benedetto said yesterday during the second of a series of forums organized by the Coalition of United Workers (NMI).

The forum, held at the Kilili Beach pavilion, was intended for the Bangladeshi, Sir Lankans, Nepalese, and Indian communities.

In his discussion on the visa issue, Benedetto said the good news for the CNMI is that the Commonwealth is exempt from the numeric cap for H1-B and H2-B workers.

The U.S. government allows only about 66,000 people to get those visas nationwide. Under the old immigration policy, the CNMI would have to compete with other states for those visas and Benedetto said the Commonwealth will get very few of them.

"Usually by mid-year of every year, the quota is exhausted already and there's no more slots available. But under the new law we are exempt from that 66,000 cap," he said.

As long as the transition period lasts, he said, CNMI employers can bring in as many H1-B and H2-B workers as they need to.

The H1-B visa generally requires a worker to have a college degree and

these people are engineers, architects, lawyers, nurses and other very highly skilled people.

The ombudsman, however, stressed that people don't necessarily have to be a college degree holder to get an H1-B visa as there are other ways to meet the requirement.

"For instance, I know for sure that Sir Lanka is like this and maybe Bangladesh as well, because you have a different type of educational system than we have in the states, if you graduate high school you may have the equivalent of a year or two of college degree level credit under the U.S. system," he said.

Benedetto said the law allows for three years of experience to count toward one year of a person's education.

"For instance, if you had two years of college in Sri Lanka or Bangladesh, and you got six years of experience as an engineer in the CNMI or somewhere else, you may be qualified to get the H1-B," he said.

The ombudsman said the H1-B visa is really the best one to have because it allows the worker to, under the dual intent, apply for a green card.

He said H1-B visa is different because the U.S. Congress made a policy decision that the United States needs highly skilled workers.

"We need more engineers, we need more computer programmers. Here is one of those occupational categories that is very lucky because you can come in and say 'I want to come in and work and I will also apply for a green card' and we will let you do it," Benede-

to said.

He said an employer could sponsor a farmer who fits the normal require-

COMMUNITY**From Page 2****Late registration ongoing at Hopwood**

Hopwood Jr. High School wishes to announce to students, parents, and/or guardians for incoming and off-island students that the late registration for this school year, 2008-2009 is ongoing until July 31. Please register your child now between 8am and 3pm daily. Should you have any questions or

concerns, please call 237-3425, Registrar's Office. Don't forget proper documents—listed below—that may be needed when you register your child. All requests for transcripts and certifications must be requested in advance with a small fee upon receiving it on the same time indicated above.

- Official Transcript
- Health Transcript
- Birth Certificate
- Medical Insurance Card
- Entry Permit
- Legal Guardianship Documents

SENATE**From Page 1**

four terms as Tinian senator, from 1981 to 1989. He was a board member of the Marianas Public Lands Authority when Gov. Benigno R. Fitial abolished the agency in 2006 due to reported abuses.

Another appointee, former Sen. Thomas Villagomez, is awaiting confirmation. Sen. Paul A. Manglona said the Senate could not act on Thomas Villagomez' nomination because of incomplete documents.

Under its bylaws, CPA requires at least four board members to constitute a quorum and to conduct business. The lack of a functioning board is the main reason Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has extended the CPA emergency declaration for another 30 days. The state of emergency was declared originally to stave off a technical default on CPA's airport revenue bond indenture.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said yesterday that four more names will be submitted to the Senate on Monday. They are former Rep. Absalon Waki Jr., Frank Camacho, Miriam

Seman, and Barry Toves.

Along with Manuel Villagomez, Thomas Villagomez, and Lifoifoi, the four new appointees will complete the seven-member board.

"We are heeding the call of the Legislature to submit the nominees. Once the names submitted, the Senate can review and act on them. If we can get that done, we may no longer need to extend the emergency," said Reyes.

In a recent report to the administration and the Legislature, acting CPA executive director Lee Cabrera expressed belief that "it is more prudent to restore CPA's board as soon as possible."

He noted that the governor's directives had already fully addressed the major concerns that prompted the emergency declaration, which is keeping the ports authority under the governor's direct control.

"What remains now is the administrative and operational governance of CPA. Given the turnover in key staff and management, it appears appropriate that the CPA board of directors be restored as soon as possible to ensure that the changes which have taken place are carried through to completion," Cabrera said.

mittee and also to talk about our briefings with the federal officials who came here last week and also to talk to them about the upcoming delegate election," she said.

Coalition of United Workers vice-president Rabby Syed said they are very happy with the number of people who showed up.

"We designed this forum because there are a lot of people who have questions in their mind and they don't know who to ask to get the right answer," said Syed, who is also the president of the Saipan Taxi Association.

He said the forum gave clear answers as to what's going to happen and how they can prepare themselves.

Coalition president Irene Tantiado said yesterday's forum was just the second of a series that they intend to hold to educate guest workers on many issues.

Last June 28, the Coalition organized the same forum for the Filipino community.

"The next [forum] will be for the Chinese and Korean [community]," Tantiado said.

"Our main objective is to educate guest workers to tell them what they can expect or what they should be preparing because they have a lot of questions at this point and the only thing we can share with them is to educate them through the right people like Jim Benedetto and Rep. Tina Sablan."

She said the issues are not necessarily just focused on federalization, but also questions on local labor, immigration, and unpaid wages.

Prepositioned ships use tech to treat waste

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie.delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Maritime pre-positioning ships, which are often viewable from the Saipan coastline, use high technology systems to treat the sewage and leftover food that the ships generate.

Last Sunday, a group of 20 visitors from the Department of Environmental Quality, their families and *Saipan Tribune* staff got a first-hand look at how these ships use advanced science to ensure that their constant presence will not have an environmental impact on the waters of Saipan. The group toured the steamship *Stephen W. Pless* to observe how food waste and trash are disposed of on the high seas.

DEQ's Joe Kaipat, who coordinated the event and invited the participants, noted that the visit was prompted by repeated inquiries from local residents as to the methods of waste disposal utilized on the pre-positioning ships.

During the excursion, the group split, with the two groups toured around by Chief Mate Darrel Jones of the Marine Corps and Joe Kaipat.

A Marine Sanitation Device treats the ships' daily food waste and sewage. The machine rids the waste of germs and turns the



The group that toured the waste treatment facility of the steamship *Stephen W. Pless* last Sunday.

resulting substance into water, which is then expelled from the ship into the ocean.

Non-food items such as plastic bottles and aluminum cans are recycled in specific rooms on each ship.

A waste management company takes the trash that cannot be liquefied or recycled off the ship

every eight to ten days.

"We store plastic waste in the ship. We either pay Ambyth to take it off here or we dump it off ourselves," said Jones.

"The sewage goes to a storage machine which breaks it down into small pieces, and then it will be moved to another treatment machine where it

will electronically clean all the germs using chlorine," said one of the workers.

The *Stephen W. Pless* was built in 1981 in Boston and was activated militarily in 1984. It was the last steamship built in the United States. The ship has three sister ships: the *Maersk Class*, *Waterman* and *AmSea*.

Saipan to host Witnesses' annual event

Jehovah's Witnesses will host their annual convention at the Kingdom Hall Of Jehovah's Witnesses in Gualo Rai beginning Friday, July 25, 2008, at 9:20am. The sessions will continue on Saturday and Sunday as well.

The 2008 "Guided by God's Spirit" District Convention is open to the public. Admission to the convention is free, and no collections will be taken. The program will focus on

why reliable guidance is needed today and where people can turn to for trustworthy advice in all aspects of life.

Witnesses who are associated within the islands of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan congregations anticipate an excellent turnout for the event in view of the enthusiastic response to last year's convention, which had the theme "Follow the Christ!" Witnesses also look forward to welcoming many non-Witness-

es to the convention. Witnesses believe that all who attend will benefit from the practical information presented.

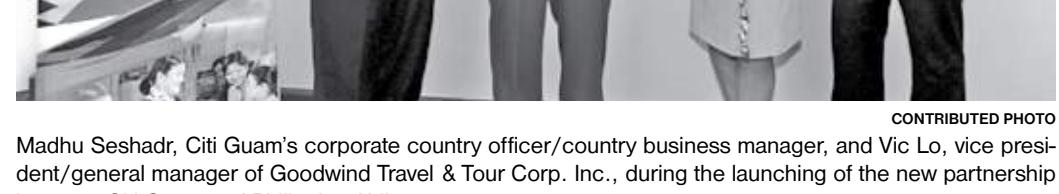
In the CNMI, Guam, and Micronesia there will be 10 conventions this summer. Worldwide, there are nearly 7,000,000 Witnesses in over 101,000 congregations. In 2007, more than 12 million people attended over 3,200 of the Witnesses' conventions around the world. (PR)



MARIANAS HOUSE VISITORS

Ando and Esing Matsumoto with Angie P. Borja and her brother Ed Pangelinan pose for the camera during a recent visit to the Marianas House in Washington D.C.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Madhu Seshadr, Citi Guam's corporate country officer/country business manager, and Vic Lo, vice president/general manager of Goodwind Travel & Tour Corp. Inc., during the launching of the new partnership between Citi Guam and Philippine Airlines.

Citibank Guam, PAL ink air miles partnership

Effective July 15, 2008, Citibank Guam Rewards Card members can redeem their Rewards Points for Mabuhay Miles toward free travel and upgrades on Philippine Airlines.

Citibank Guam Rewards Card members (Platinum, Gold and Silver) now have the added choice to convert their Rewards Points into Philippine Airlines Mabuhay Miles, which can be redeemed for free travel not only to Manila, but also to other domestic destinations within the Philippines or international cities served by Philippine Airlines.

"The Philippines is a top destination for Guam residents. It is also a gateway to most Asian

Sparks takes helm of Coast Guard Guam

GUAM—Capt. Thomas Sparks has relieved Captain William Marhoffer as Commander of Coast Guard Sector Guam at a Change of Command ceremony held July 18 at the Naval Base Guam theater.

Sparks, with 25 years in the Coast Guard, is now in charge of 20 officers, 125 enlisted, two 110' patrol boats and three 25' Defender class boats.

In addition to Sector Commander, he now serves as Captain of the Port for Guam and the CNMI, Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection, Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, Federal On Scene Coordinator for pollution response, and Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator.

Sparks reports to Sector Guam from service as Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit in Port Arthur, Texas.

Among the guests at the ceremony were Rear Adm. Mason Brown, commander of the 14th Coast Guard District in Honolulu, representatives of the Government of Guam, senior military officials, maritime industry representatives, and many friends and family of the Coast Guard. Guam's Naval Sea Cadet Corps served as the color guard.

After three years of service on island, Marhoffer said a sad goodbye to the attendees. He said he will truly miss Guam.

Under his command, Sector Guam coordinated approximately 144 maritime search and rescue cases with 102 lives saved and 129 persons assisted across Micronesia in 2007. Sector Guam's Prevention and Compliance Department inspected approximately 200 foreign-flagged vessels, 880 containers, and 32 regulated maritime facilities.

Marhoffer was acknowledged at the ceremony for his outstanding leadership these past three years and well wishes were given to him as he heads to his next position at Coast Guard District 14 in Honolulu.

Sparks said looks forward to leading the Coast Guard missions of serving the people of Micronesia, saving lives, protecting the environment, enforcing the law on the seas, facilitating commerce and guarding the homeland.

The change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition that formally symbolizes the continuity of authority as the command is passed from one individual to another. (USCG)

Philippine Airlines expressed, "On behalf of Philippine Airlines, Asia's first commercial airline, we are happy to become a partner in Citibank Guam's Credit Card Rewards Program. We value this great opportunity to communicate to their card members and to offer our distinctive products and services."

Philippine Airlines held a two-day event at Micronesia Mall Center Court on July 19 and 20 to formally launch the new partnership with Citibank. Philippine Airlines will also be raffling away a pair of round-trip tickets from Guam to Manila in each of these two days as part of the launch event. (PR)

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Double-secret donations

President Bush has a new "don't ask, don't tell" policy. It involves his presidential library. Fundraising for the library is going on—in secret, we are told, shielded even from the president himself. According to White House press secretary Dana Perino, Bush "has asked that members of his foundation do not inform him about anyone who has written a check, or decided not to write a check, until after he's no longer president." Do they tell the check writers, one wonders, that the president won't actually know about their generosity? Does the president, if some eager-beaver donor starts to blab about his gift, put his fingers in his ears and start to talk over the giver, like a child who doesn't want to listen to his parents?

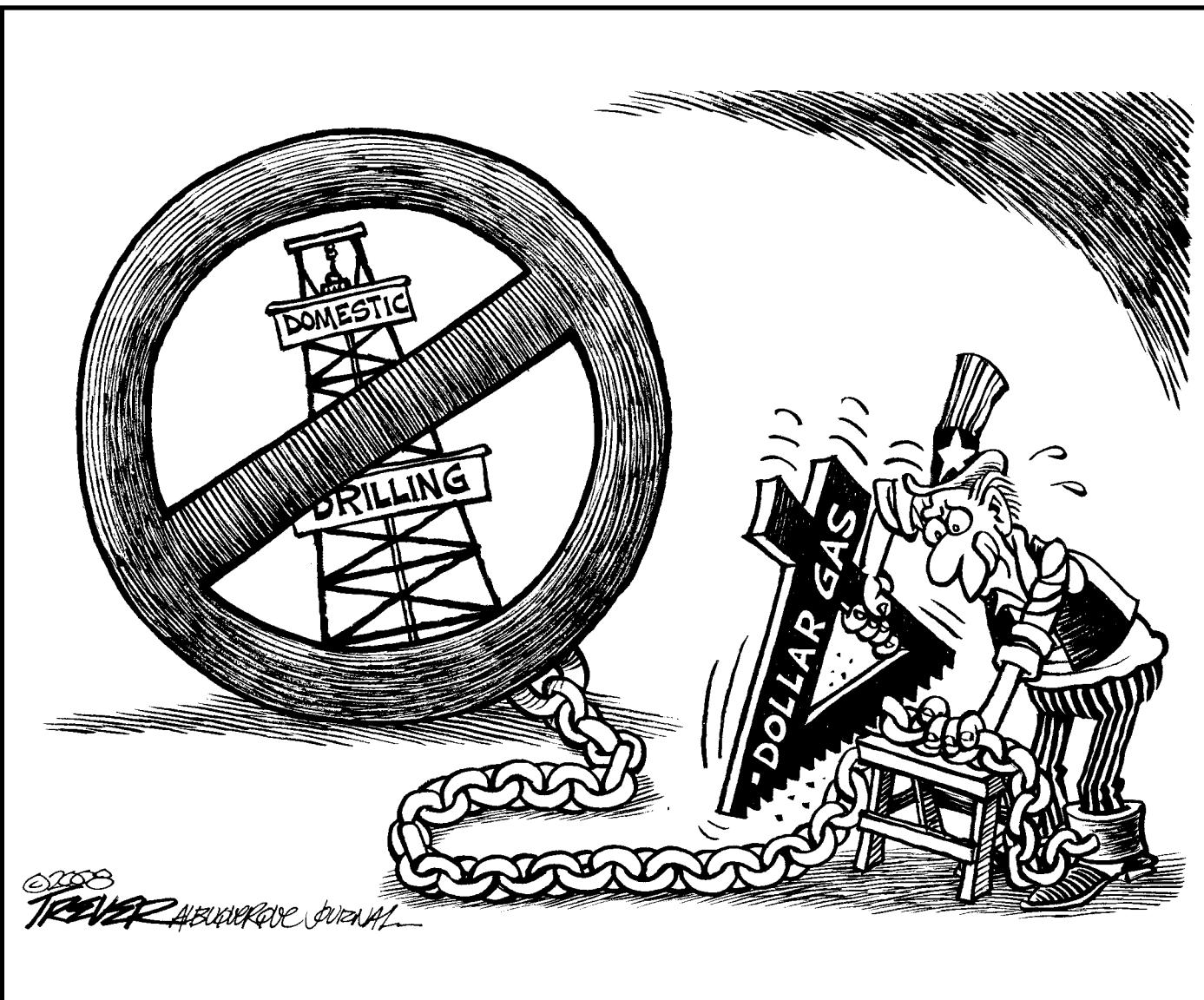
The reported Bush approach, it must be said, is preferable to the vacuum cleaner operation of Bill Clinton's presidential library, which held soirees for potential donors featuring you know who. But Bush's diffidence about knowing who's giving merely underscores the inappropriateness of having sitting presidents collecting money for future "presidential temples," as art historian Benjamin Hufbauer has described them. If people are giving money that the president doesn't feel comfortable knowing about, well, maybe he shouldn't have this money-raising operation going on in the first place.

In that sense, the sting operation by the Sunday Times of London against Bush campaign fundraiser and international consultant Stephen Payne ought to be a wake-up call for the president. Payne was captured on videotape suggesting that a foreign politician might do well to pledge \$250,000 to the library as part of his effort to meet with administration officials.

The Bush library folks have been saying for a year and half that they are developing a policy about what contributions they will accept and whether they will release the names of donors. Don't hold your breath on the latter. No policy has been forthcoming, except—in the aftermath of the Payne story—to say that foreign checks won't be accepted while the president is in office. Of course, if he doesn't know who's giving, why not bring it all on? Meanwhile, the library's been raising money—although it won't say how much—and it has put off filing the Internal Revenue Service form that would show that information.

Secret fundraising is a stinky business. Bush's decision to stick his head in the sand doesn't relieve the stench.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



Who's on the watch list

By LEONARD BOYLE
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

The federal government's consolidated terrorist watch list has become a central issue in the debate about how we can best secure our homeland. Unfortunately, myths about the watch list continue to grow in just about every report and retelling.

How many times have you heard: There are a million terrorists on the consolidated watch list! Thousands of Americans get detained and inconvenienced daily because of watch-list errors!

There aren't. They don't.

A vigorous debate about the best way to continue protecting our nation is vital, and the terrorist watch list should be a part of that discussion. As director of the federal Terrorist Screening Center, I offer five facts to remember about the government's consolidated watch list:

■ It helps fight terrorism. The Government Accountability Office, Congress' independent investigative arm, reported in October that its review of outcomes from watch-list encounters shows they "helped to combat terrorism."

The GAO report stated that the watch list "has helped federal, state and local screening and law enforcement officials obtain information to make better-informed decisions when they encounter an individual on the list as to the threat posed and the appropriate response or action to take."

■ It enhances information-sharing. During a traffic stop last year, a police officer in a major metropolitan area used the watch list to identify three subjects of separate FBI terrorism investigations in the same car. Their association had previously been unknown. In just this instance, important dots were connected and vital intelligence was shared across federal, state and local agencies.

There are many examples like this one, which prompted the GAO to note that the watch list "enhanced U.S. counterterrorism efforts" because encounters provide "the opportunity to collect and share information on known or appropriately suspected terrorists with law enforcement agencies and the intelligence community."

■ It is constantly checked to reduce misidentifications. Separate from the redress complaints travelers can submit, the Terrorist Screening Center runs quality-assurance checks on watch-list data every day. One GAO study, "Efforts to Help Reduce Adverse Effects on the Public," made no recommendations regarding the list's maintenance—a very rare occurrence for GAO audits—"because agencies have ongoing initiatives to improve

data quality, reduce the number of misidentifications or mitigate their effects, and enhance redress efforts."

A recent example is the Terrorist Encounter Review Process. Under this process, the records of individuals who have frequent encounters with the watch list will be automatically reviewed by the Terrorist Screening Center even if no redress complaint is submitted. This review will assess whether the relevant records are still current, accurate and thorough and whether the information warrants continued inclusion on the watch list. This effort will be particularly helpful for segments of the population that may be apprehensive about directly engaging government agencies and might otherwise not file a redress complaint.

■ Its "records" are not the same as "individuals." Terrorists work hard to evade our multiple layers of security, including creating myriad false identities. To counter those efforts, the center creates a separate record for each alias, fake date of birth, fraudulent driver's license and name variation associated with an individual. As a result, a single individual can generate hundreds of records within the consolidated terrorist watch list.

■ Its size corresponds to the threat. It's a big world. Even the minuscule percentage of people involved in terrorist activities can equal large numbers. There are slightly more than 1 million records on the watch list, which correspond to approximately 400,000 individuals. The vast majority of those individuals aren't in the United States right now—and the watch list was created to keep it that way.

The United States has more than 300 million people. Of the individuals on the terrorist watch list, approximately 95 percent are not American citizens or legal residents; the number of U.S. persons is relatively minute.

The same is true for the others on the watch list—these individuals are drawn from across the globe and represent a tiny fraction of the more than 6.6 billion people on our planet.

The watch list has continued to grow as our law enforcement, intelligence and information-sharing efforts improve and as the U.S. government is able to better identify known or suspected terrorists and their identifying documentation.

It's healthy to debate the tactics used to maintain and utilize a single list of known terrorists or those appropriately suspected of terrorist activity. But the facts make a compelling case that the federal consolidated terrorist watch list is a successful component of the layered security our nation implemented after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The writer is director of the Terrorist Screening Center.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The group psychology of indifference

Awoman sits alone on a gray chair in a psychiatric ward in a Brooklyn hospital. When we first see her, we do not know how long she has been sitting there. Suddenly, the woman collapses on her face onto the dirty floor.

We watch through a surveillance camera as she lies there, her blue gown above her knees, her legs convulsing. We watch as a guard enters, looks at the woman, looks up at the television hanging from the ceiling, then walks away.

We watch as two other patients sit across the room as the woman lies there. We watch them watch her.

The video, released recently on the Internet, documents the minutes the woman twists on the floor. She stops moving at 6:07 a.m. At 6:35 a.m. a hospital staff member comes in, nudges the patient with her foot. We hope the staffer will do something. But she walks away.

In the time that passes between action and indifference, between life and death, we wait before someone finally puts the woman on the gurney and rolls her away. Later we learn that Esmin Elizabeth Green, 49, an immigrant from Jamaica who moved to New York to make money to send to her children back home, is dead.

What might you have done?

Last month, the Hartford, Conn., police released a chilling video of a 78-year-old man trying to cross a street with a carton of milk. He steps off the curb just as two cars that appear to be racing swerve on the wrong side of the street. The first car swerves around the man. The second car hits him and throws him into the air like a doll, then speeds away.

What follows is even more chilling: People walk by. Nine vehicles pass him lying in the street. Some drivers slow down to look but drive away.

Again, we watch people watching him.

Angel Arce Torres lies in the street for more than a minute before a police car arrives. He remains in critical condition.

"This is a clear indication of what we have become when you see a man laying in the street, hit by a car, and people drive around him and walk by him," Hartford Police Chief Daryl Roberts will tell a news conference. "At the end of the day, we have to look at ourselves and understand that our moral values have now changed. We have no regard for each other."

Police later reported receiving four 911 calls, but still, no one stooped to hold Torres' hand until help came.

Now, you look on with all the brilliance of hindsight and say you would have done it differently. You would have called for help the moment the woman collapsed on the hospital floor. You would have pulled the man out of the street after the car hit him and other cars just passed him by.

Or would you?

Are you really as good as you think you are? Deep down inside, is there a hero waiting, or an apathetic little soul soaked in indifference?

Taking a crack at Obama jokes

Ibelieve comedic change is possible. Since *The New Yorker* dropped a bum joke on its most recent cover, comedians have appeared on every news outlet to whine about how hard it is to make fun of Barack Obama. Really? They have an arsenal of jokes to use against a 71-year-old ex-POW cancer survivor and Obama is too touchy a subject?

I'm here to help. I called some comedian friends to compile a guide to making fun of Obama. The consensus is there's not yet one standout attribute to pound away on (McCain is old! Clinton cheats on his wife! Bush is stupid! Al Gore is a robot! John Kerry makes me feel inexplicably sad inside!), but there are areas to explore. If we just work a little harder, and sacrifice a little bit, we can achieve greatness. We are the immature jerks we have been waiting for.

■ He's a nerd

Yes, he seems cool because he plays basketball and fist-bumps and knows about pop music. But that's because we're comparing him with other politicians, all of whom are older than our grandparents. Compare Obama with other 46-year-olds and he's Urkel. He's the kid at the Model United Nations conference who says, "Guys, guys, c'mon. Let's not make fun of Eastern Europe." And the brutal truth is, even if women faint at your rallies, you'll never feel cool inside when you have Alfred E. Neuman's ears.

■ He's ridiculously earnest

Obama is the kind of guy who not only talked you into showing up for Hands Across America but afterward insisted that it was awesome. On "Saturday Night Live," Fred Armisen plays up Obama's weird pauses and brow furrows like he's Yogi Bear getting bad news from a doctor. Comedian Marc Maron does a really smart bit about how Obama stares out into the distance while giving a speech. "The first time you see him you're like, 'What's he looking at?' But then you're like, 'I don't know, but it's good and full of hope. And

Sociologists and psychologists have long studied what is known as bystander behavior. They say people are often unsure how to react to such events because they have difficulty processing what they are seeing. Witnesses to tragedy, especially when events are uncertain, often look around first.

If no one else is moving, individuals have a tendency to mimic the unmoving crowd. Although we might think otherwise, experts say, most of us would not have behaved much differently from the people in these videos. Deep inside, we are herd animals, conformists. We care deeply what other people are doing and what they think of us. The classic story of conformist behavior can be found in the 1964 case of Kitty Genovese, 28, the bar manager who was slain by a man who raped and stabbed her for about half an hour as neighbors in a New York neighborhood merely looked on.

Later, investigators would say that no single person saw the entire attack and some people misinterpreted the screams, but the case still prompted sociologists to study how the slaying could have happened on a populated street. The case produced a term, the "bystander effect," to explain why people do not act when others clearly appear to be suffering in front of them.

"The larger question about the culture of indifference has a lot to do with bystander behavior," says Wesley Perkins, sociology professor at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, in Geneva, N.Y. "The bystander phenomenon is generated by the perception that other people are not doing anything about it, therefore I shouldn't either."

After the event is over and comes to greater public light, "people think everybody is mean and cruel-hearted and doesn't care," Perkins says. "But much of the bystander phenomenon happens because people are looking on and thinking, if they don't see someone else coming to the person's aid, then the person must not be in trouble."

But it's different when the bystander is a solitary witness: "They are more likely to come to another person's aid than if there are other people around and nobody is doing anything."

Most of us do the right thing only when others are doing the right thing. Real heroes are the ones who break out of the group norm. The predominant cultural impulse is for people to transfer responsibility.

People think, "if something happens, I am not really responsible for it," says Paul Ragat Loeb, a lecturer on ethics and author of "Soul of a Citizen."

Loeb cites the factory workers he spoke to who processed plutonium for nuclear weapons. "I said, 'Do you think it is a good thing?' They said: 'It's not my responsibility. I could be making light bulbs. I could be working in a coal plant.' What it was about was a separation of individual actions from potentially enormous consequences. They said: 'It doesn't really matter. It is the same thing as making light bulbs.' I said: 'No. It isn't the same thing.'"

There is another significant cultural view: that others will take care of it. (ital) Hey, I just gotta take care of me. (end italic)

"We hope people do the right thing," Loeb says. "We hope some-

one takes care of the poor. We hope someone is going to take care of that woman (in the psychiatric hospital). 'But I am not her relative. I'm not the doctor assigned to her case.' I would argue the medical personnel who encountered her had an obvious responsibility to do something. I would hope if I were sitting in that room, I would have gone up to the desk and said, 'This woman is convulsing. You need to call someone to take care of her.'

"I spend my entire life trying to understand engagement and denial," Loeb says. "A sentiment a lot of people share is: It's not going to make any difference."

Lawyer Donna Lieberman, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, sued Kings County Hospital Center, where the woman died on the waiting room floor. She was appalled about the indifference of the hospital staff.

The lawsuit describes the hospital as "a chamber of filth, decay, indifference and danger." A place where people suffering are regularly ignored.

"This isn't about one rogue employee not doing his or her job, but we see one person after the other observing a woman ... on the floor and doing absolutely nothing over a period of nearly an hour," Lieberman says. "You don't see one person after another failing to respond to a situation like this without wondering about the culture. ... The conclusion is inescapable that there is a culture of indifference."

After the video went public, six hospital employees were fired. A statement from the hospital's president said: "We are all shocked and distressed by this situation. What our investigation so far determined violates the basic principles of the compassionate healthcare practiced every day here at Kings County and across our public hospital system."

Back to the video: At 5:32 a.m., Esmin Elizabeth Green falls off her chair. What we don't see is that she falls right below an observation window.

"The professional staff can see what is going on," Lieberman points out.

Green also appears to be caught under a chair. She tries again and again to get up.

By the lawyer's count, at least four staffers — including a doctor — did nothing but watch.



By DENEEN L. BROWN

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



By JOEL STEIN

Special to the Los Angeles Times

he's the only one who can see it. If we vote for him, maybe he'll take us there."

■ He's black

Apparently, the differences between black people and white people can be funny. Trust, me I've seen this on HBO's "Def Comedy Jam."

When I called "Simpsons" writer Matt Selman for help on Obama jokes, he came up with this: "A lot of people are worried about Obama being assassinated because he's black. The solution to that is a much blacker vice president. I'm thinking Flavor Flav." Admittedly, Selman nervously said, "Don't make me look racist!" about 20 times before and after telling me his joke.

■ He's manorexic

No one loses weight on the campaign trail, when you're grabbing fast food and eating whatever is offered out of politeness, but this guy is always turning down doughnuts. It's like he signed up for running for president because he thought "president" was some kind of 10K race.

As comedian Aisha Tyler told me, "He has the build of an ex-high school javelin thrower. He's the guy on the track team who only does that one event, and he weighs the same as the javelin."

■ He's effete

He's well-dressed. He eats arugula—which he buys at Whole Foods. He mocks those who use guns. He is, as we mentioned, quite thin. He may only be half-black, but he's three-quarters gay.

■ He called his own grandmother a racist

We all have racist grandmothers, but we don't brag about it to everyone. I like to imagine that his granny wasn't that bad and that Obama was just super-sensitive. Like she would tell him it was

bedtime and he would yell, "Oh, I have to go to bed because I'm black!" Or she would tell him to clean up his room and he would start yelling, "Oh, clean my room, huh? My people stopped obeying the white woman 100 years ago, Grammy!" Then they both would laugh and she would whip him.

■ His name is weird

The unfunny people beat us to the Osama/Obama bit, which really could have been mined. But Obama also dropped the "Barry" nickname in college. Do you remember those classmates who suddenly found their culture and had to share it with you like they were on the ninth step of AA? You just wanted to trudge through "Portrait of a Lady," but they felt compelled to sit you down in the dorm hallway and explain how they're no longer Susie, they're Mei Mei now. Then they recounted their whole journey of identity by using a lot of words that made it clear that Mei Mei was going to be a lot less fun than Susie was.

■ His platitudes need deconstruction

"We are the people we've been waiting for?" Actually, I'm pretty sure we're the people who put all our money in Yahoo and then bought a house to flip and now are hocking everything we have. We're the people China has been waiting for.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▾78°

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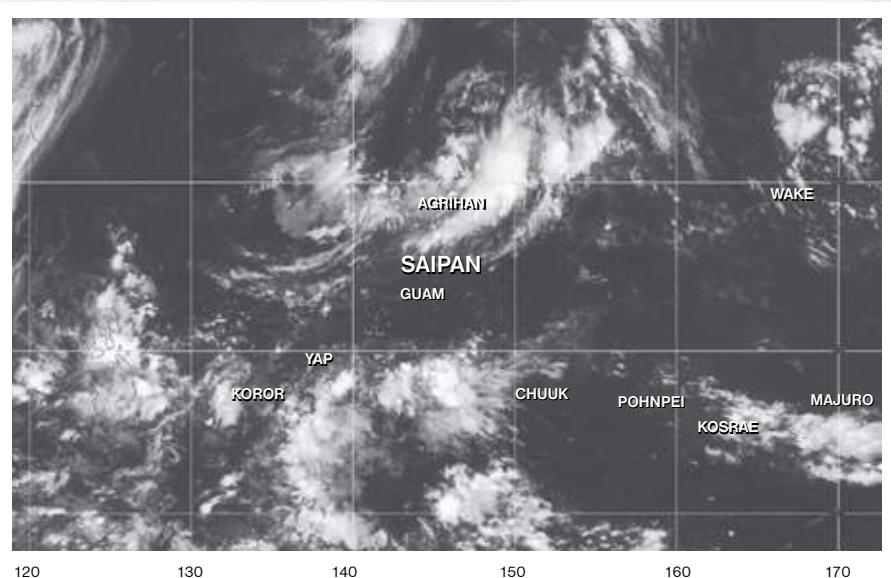
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▲87° ▾77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86 ▾76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▾78
Yap	Cloudy	▲86 ▾77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▾78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▾74
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲89 ▾75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▾77

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 12:55PM, SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low pressure is centered near 22N147E with a trough northeastward from 14N133E to 19N149E to beyond 25N155E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with this system are in two areas. One area is within 100 miles of a line from 22N138E to 18N143E. Another area over MinamiTori Island and the Mariana Islands is bounded by a line from 14N144E to 23N148E to 24N157E back to 14N144E. Upper-level divergence is creating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms northeast of Wake Island or north of a line from 22N167E to 21N178E. A surface trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Yap and southeast of Palau within 150 miles of a line from 9N139E to 1N137E. Converging low-level winds are causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between Yap and Chuuk States within 150 miles of a line from 8N142E to 8N148E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Pohnpei in an area over Kosrae but south of Kwajalein and Majuro within 150 miles of a line from 6N163E to 4N177E to beyond 7N180.

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲59 ▾48
Beijing	Cloudy	▲95 ▾75
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲90 ▾79
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲84 ▾76
London	Partly Sunny	▲64 ▾50
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲83 ▾65
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲91 ▾79
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	▲60 ▾46
Miami	Cloudy	▲90 ▾79
New York	Thundershowers	▲88 ▾72
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▾75
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲72 ▾51
Pusan	Rain	▲87 ▾74
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▾66
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲84 ▾54
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲68 ▾54
Seoul	Rain	▲82 ▾73
Tokyo	Showers	▲86 ▾75
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲93 ▾75

Tides

Saipan Harbor	
3:12AM Today	Low Tide: 1.2 Feet
7:54AM Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
3:15PM Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet
10:12PM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Sunrise/Sunset		Moonrise/Moonset	
Today	5:56AM	6:50 PM	Today
Monday	5:56AM	6:50 PM	Monday
Tuesday	5:57AM	6:50 PM	Tuesday
Wednesday	5:57AM	6:50 PM	Wednesday
Thursday	5:57AM	6:50 PM	Thursday

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■ Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

■ Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

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Good Housekeeping

For light sweeping, the Toro Power Sweep blower works well.

THE WASHINGTON POST



Answers to home questions

By GARY DYMSKI
(C) 2008, NEWSDAY

Question: My wife and I have lived in our Colonial for 38 years. Just recently, we encountered water leaking into the ceiling of our den closet on the main floor. The water then enters the room from two places in the den ceiling. Then we discovered that the water enters the ceiling from the bathroom. This room is on the second floor above the den area. We installed a new roof about 17 years ago. Because of ice damming, the venting of the attic was improved, insulation was increased and a large attic fan was installed. A year before these improvements, we also had central air installed. This unit is in the attic area, above the bathroom/den. At the end of the year, the gutters were cleaned. We have tried to hire a roofing specialist to find the leaks, but they are too busy, do not return calls or do not perform this type of work. What do you suggest?

Answer: You've given me more than a few sources for possible water intrusion. And you could have more than one leak.

One obvious source could be the bathroom above the closet, so you might need a plumber and not a roofer. Water could be leaking from a shower wall when someone takes a shower. Are you sure water isn't collecting on the floor outside the tub? You might also have a small leak behind a vanity, where the water supply lines for the faucet are located. Perhaps another supply line, to the toilet tank, is leaking. These bathroom areas should be the first to eliminate from your list, because they are the easiest to inspect. Look at all the water-supply lines, then examine the shower wall, especially where the tile meets the top of the tub. Wide cracks in the grout lines or in any caulk could be allowing water to trickle behind the wall and onto the ceiling below. If you find leaks, replace water supply lines or shut-off valves and recaulk and reseal the shower wall.

You might consider the tub drain as a source, too. You could cut away the ceiling in the closet to examine the drain area and even the hot and cold supply pipes to the tub/shower. After a plumber has made the necessary repairs, to the drain or water lines, a piece of drywall could be used to fix your closet ceiling.

Once the bathroom has been eliminated in the hunt for your mysterious leak, move to the next possibility. Normally, I'd suggest the air-conditioning unit. When it was installed, I'm sure the contractor ran a line to drain condensation from the unit. During the cooling process, condensation builds up and must be drained from the unit. Usually, this condensation travels to the exterior of a building through a flexible hose or pipe. This drain line can collect dirt and grime and clog, so water originally intended for the exterior now collects in a puddle on the attic floor. After time, there's a wet stain or leak on the first-floor ceiling.

But since you're reporting a leak in the winter months, when your air-conditioning unit is not in operation, I don't think the drain line is the problem. However, you could indeed have a leak somewhere on the roof. Since you have access to the attic, make a visual inspection of the attic floor and the interior roof sheathing. Using a flashlight or project light, look for water spots or stains. If the stain is on the interior side of the roof sheathing, there's a good chance you have a roof leak. A stain along the wall or attic floor could mean a leak behind the gutters, perhaps a rotted fascia board.

Call local roofing supply outlets, asking for references. Say you want a contractor who specializes in small repairs, like new flashing and replacing damaged or missing shingles.

Gardening gear

By JOEL M. LERNER, APLD
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Good footwear, gloves, tools, irrigation and plant-enhancing materials can make gardening safer and more enjoyable. Here are some new products that my associates and I have tested recently.

FOOTWEAR



THE WASHINGTON POST

Lawngrips Brutus waterproof boot and Nimbus clogs. Work boots should be comfortable all day and offer the protection of steel toes.

homeowners that has all the features of quality footwear: \$154.95.

LawnGrips also has redesigned its women's Nimbus garden clog, making it lighter and more comfortable. The clog offers the same Grip-N-Go outsole with a non-slip, self-cleaning lug sole based on a soccer-shoe design for maximum traction: \$64.95. For information, see www.lawngrips.com or call 877-447-4771.

GLOVES

There are gloves for everyday protection that will shield your hands without reducing your tactile ability when working with tools, especially operating switches on equipment. Mechanix Wear makes a line of gloves you can wear while turning nuts and bolts, pulling weeds, pruning trees and shrubs, installing plants and using hand tools.



THE WASHINGTON POST

Mechanix Wear makes a line of gloves you can wear while turning nuts and bolts, pulling weeds, pruning trees and shrubs, installing plants and using hand tools.

TOOLS

Toro's electric Ultra Blower Vac is engineered to use a metal impeller to vacuum and grind leaves into a bag, reducing them to one-sixteenth the volume of a pile of raked leaves. The shredded debris is collected in a bag that slips over your shoulder and attaches to the blower. Remove the bag and attach the blower nozzle to clean up after yourself: \$34.99. For more information on both products, check www.toro.com/home/yardtools or call 888-384-9939.

For light sweeping, the Toro Power Sweep Electric blower is a smaller, lighter tool. It's almost as efficient as the Ultra for blowing leaves into a pile.

PLANT HELPERS

Soil preparation is one of the most important elements in plant health. A new product by Nature's Lawn & Garden, Aerify Plus, uses a combination of popular growth stimulants and a soil conditioner. Initially, use it every one to two months to boost plant growth and improve soil drainage over several seasons. You should notice a difference in plant vigor within an application or two. Substances build up over time. Plant and soil activators are excellent organic additions to your soil. Price for a quart with ready-to-use sprayer: \$21.95. See www.natureslawn.com or call 716-681-7793.

For watering in soil conditioners and fertilizers, as well as general irrigation during summer heat, one of the simplest do-it-yourself irrigation systems I have seen is made by Toro. Its 1/4-inch Blue Stripe tubing Drip Valves starter kit (www.toro.com/sprinklers/bsd/kits) is excellent. The kit comes with a hose, a selection of emitters, connectors and a faucet connector. It is versatile; simple to install; and practical for use on trees, shrubs and perennials. The starter kit is \$9.99.

Your plants can benefit greatly from wildlife repellents, used properly. Liquid Fence (www.liquidfence.com) and Plantskydd (www.plantskydd.com) are two we have tried. All herbivore repellents have common traits: They are based on exuding a scent or animal flavor, and they must have residual value. Many plants are salad bars for deer and rabbits. The longest residual value we could discern was about two to three months, without heavy rain.

One quart of ready-to-use Liquid Fence is \$15 to \$18. Plantskydd is \$25 to \$30 but is considered more effective because the plant retains its repelling ability for up to six months.

Lerner is president of Environmental Design in Capitol View Park, Md., and author of "Anyone Can Landscape" (Ball 2001). Contact him through his Web site, www.gardenlerner.com.



THE WASHINGTON POST

Liz Seymour and Caitlin Shear discuss the first steps to organizing Seymour's cluttered attic in D.C. Shear is a professional organizer who specializes in cutting clutter and creating usable space.

KITCHEN MAGIC

Grilled Tomato & Basil Pizzas

Garden tomatoes and basil make a wonderful topping for pizza cooked over the coals. For the crust, use frozen bread dough or fresh dough from the supermarket or pizzeria. Serve the pizzas as a main course or cut into wedges for appetizers.

PREP: 30 minutes

GRILL: 6 to 9 minutes per pizza

MAKES: 4 pizzas or 4 main-dish servings

1 pound (1 piece) frozen bread dough, thawed (from 2- to 3-pound package)*

2 tablespoons olive oil

4 ripe medium tomatoes (about 1 1/2 pounds), sliced

4 ounces fresh mozzarella cheese, sliced, or 1 cup shredded Fontina cheese

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

1 cup loosely packed fresh basil leaves, chopped, plus additional leaves for garnish

1. Cut thawed bread dough into 4 pieces. On oiled cookie sheet, spread and flatten 1 piece dough to about 1/8-inch thickness. Lightly brush dough with some oil. On same cookie sheet, repeat with another piece of dough. Repeat with another oiled cookie sheet and remaining pieces

of dough. For easiest handling, cover and refrigerate dough on cookie sheets until ready to use.

2. Place 1 piece of dough at a time, greased side down, on grill over medium-low heat. Grill 2 to 3 minutes or until grill marks appear on underside and dough stiffens (dough may puff slightly). Brush top with some oil. With tongs, turn crust over. Quickly arrange one-fourth of tomatoes and one-fourth of cheese on crust.

3. Cook pizza 4 to 6 minutes longer or until cheese melts and underside is evenly browned and cooked through. With tongs, transfer pizza to cutting board. Sprinkle pizza with 1/8 teaspoon salt and 1/8 teaspoon pepper. Scatter one-fourth of chopped basil on pizza and garnish with basil leaves. Drizzle with some oil if you like. Serve immediately.

4. Repeat with remaining dough and topping ingredients.

* Instead of frozen bread dough, you can use 2 packages (10 ounces each) refrigerated pizza dough (found in the dairy case of your supermarket). In step 1, pat 1 package dough into 14-inch by 10-inch rectangle and cut crosswise in half for easier handling. Repeat with remaining dough.

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SMALL CHANGE

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

We could all use ideas for saving a little money:

Look around your kitchen and see how you can save a bit of money by changing some habits. Open the refrigerator and freezer less often to save energy, the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers advises. Don't put hot foods in the refrigerator; allow them to cool first.

Many dishwashers have eco-op-

clutter and began firing questions at me: How many of those books belong to my husband, Bob? How attached am I to my mother's formal china? My grandmother's china? Why do I store stock pots that I actually use in the attic—two floors above the kitchen? Why are those old baby clothes stuffed into paper grocery bags?

Then—and this surprised me—she asked to snoop around the rest of the house, looking in closets, opening drawers, inspecting the garage. This, it turns out, is how she assesses other potential storage areas. She says it's important to look at the house "through the eyes of a stranger, so you can find where things are kind of naturally piling up." (I still suspect it was an excuse to have a look-see.)

Back up to the attic we went, and by then I was nervous. I knew I needed to clean it out. But was this stranger going to tell me I had to throw everything away?

She did not. Organizing, Caitlin said, is not a euphemism for tossing. She never pushes people to get rid of all their stuff. "Sometimes it's just not the right time to let it go," she said. "You have to be sensitive to that."

When we waded in, there was no order to my attic: Luggage was next to wrapping paper was next to linens was next to record albums was next to stock pots was next to more luggage and baby clothes and more linens.

So the first step, Caitlin said, would

tions to reduce water use or air-dry dishes. And this is a really good tip: If you replace your old, energy-guzzling fridge, don't haul it to the basement and plug it back in. That will not reduce energy bills. Have the refrigerator taken to the local recycling center instead.

Think twice when you see the warning "Dry Clean Only." Silk and linen clothing routinely sent to the dry cleaner can be hand-washed or cleaned in a washing

be zoning: grouping similar things together so you know exactly what you have. Once everything had been grouped, we would tackle a different zone each week, cleaning out, donating and storing what's left.

Caitlin said zoning is really the most important part of organizing. "You cannot make a decision until you see it all together," she said.

So we started moving boxes and bags all around the attic to create piles of similar stuff. As we zoned, we filled six large plastic bags with trash. I was amazed by the volume of empty shopping bags, clothing boxes, newspaper and packaging material that had just been lying around.

Then we pushed the piles back to the perimeter of the room to create more floor space in the center. Finally, Caitlin stuck sticky notes on the walls to label each separate zone: one for books, another for photographs and paper and furniture, etc.

After hours of work, we were sweaty and thirsty, but for the first time in years I could see the floor space in my attic. There was even room to set up an old kitchen table and two chairs as a place to talk and take notes as work progressed.

There's a lot of work ahead (we haven't organized anything yet), but already there is more space, much more space. And for the first time, I think I might actually get the job done.

machine on a gentle cycle. Use a drying rack or clothesline instead of a dryer to avoid heat damage and reduce ironing time.

■■■■

Spot-cleaning stains also minimizes trips to the cleaners, according to Lindsey Wieber and Gwen Whiting of the Laundress (thelaundress.com), a company that makes detergent and other fabric-care products. They say the "Dry Clean Only" label protects the clothing manufacturer, not the consumer.

Rotting window sill isn't a simple fix

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA

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Q: I try to maintain my home as well as I can by myself. However, there are some things that even the most determined body cannot do. The sills on my outside back windows, which face south, are rotting away. I hope that something can be done simply, but whenever someone gives me advice, they seem to think all the windows and frames need to be replaced. Any advice would be appreciated and considered. I'm a senior citizen on a limited budget.—Bonnie M., via e-mail

A: Normally, when a wooden window frame begins to show significant rotting, it's best to replace the entire

frame—you get a well-fitted, better-insulated window that will last for decades. But it isn't cheap, and the project is beyond many do-it-yourselfers.

It's a tough call, without being able to look at your exterior sills, as to whether you can make temporary repairs to them and hold off on replacing the entire window unit. Take a close look at them: Is the rotting only affecting a portion of the exterior wood? Does the rot go through to the interior side? Does the wood crumble away with light pressure?

A rotting window frame can result in a lot of other costs—water damage from moisture seeping through the compromised wood, and high energy bills from poor insulation.

If the rot is limited, you can buy a little time—a year or two, max—by filling the cracked surfaces with a two-part wood filler. This product is mixed to

gether and then applied to the damaged area with a putty knife. After it dries, it can be lightly sanded and painted.

Once that's done, though, start pricing out replacements. The temporary seal will give you a little extra time for this. With parts and labor, you may only be able to replace one frame at a time, but the replacement will be well worth it in the long run.



HOME TIP: To check how well a window seals, slip a dollar bill under the sash, close it tight, and try to slide the bill out. If the bill comes out easily, weatherstrip the window.

Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

The Good Life

Rare recording of Gandhi speech landed in safe hands

By SHANKAR VEDANTAM
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Millions of people around the world think they have heard Mahatma Gandhi speaking in English—although it was actually Gandhi channeled through the voice of actor Ben Kingsley in the famous 1982 movie by Richard Attenborough.

But very few English speakers have heard Gandhi directly. That's because there were only two occasions when he was recorded speaking in English, according to his grandson and biographer Rajmohan Gandhi. One speech, about religious issues, was recorded in the 1930s. The second, especially historic because it was just a few months before Gandhi was assassinated, was made on April 2, 1947.

For decades, this second speech has been largely lost to the world. A few years ago, an Italian cellphone company made a commercial using excerpts, and scattered fragments are available on the Internet.

Recently, however, the second speech surfaced in—of all places—downtown Washington. It had been lovingly preserved for 60 years by John Cosgrove, a former president of the National Press Club. Cosgrove's copy came from Alfred Wagg, a journalist who recorded the speech in New Delhi and produced four 78-rpm LPs that included both Gandhi's voice as well as Wagg's own commentary about the Indian independence leader. Cosgrove discovered the significance of the recording during a chance encounter with Rajmohan Gandhi, when the author came to the Press Club this past spring to promote his new biography.

Gandhi's speech—made with the uneven diction of an elderly man who sounds as though he has lost most of his teeth—had the same themes he visited over and over throughout his life: the importance of nonviolence, the eradication of the caste system in Hindu society, amity between South Asia's Hindus and Muslims, and a world united against violence and exploitation.

"A friend asked yesterday, did I believe in one world?" Gandhi says at one point in the speech. "Of course I believe in World One. And how can I possibly do otherwise? ... You can redeliver that message now in this age of democracy, in the age of awakening of the poorest of the poor."

Gandhi preferred to speak to Indian audiences in their own languages. He regularly used Hindi, although his native tongue was Gujarati. This speech was made to a gathering of Asian leaders, for whom English was a common language.

The speech is especially poi-



THE WASHINGTON POST

John Cosgrove, of Washington, gingerly cradles the rare recording of the Hindu spiritual leader Mahatma Gandhi. Cosgrove, a former president of the National Press Club, had preserved the recording for 60 years, though it was only recently that he understood the speech's significance.

gnant not only because we now know Gandhi had barely 10 months left to live, but also because of something it does not explicitly note. It was made precisely one day after Gandhi had set in motion one of the most audacious political initiatives of his career.

On April 1, 1947, Gandhi proposed that Muhammad Ali Jinnah, leader of India's minority Muslim population and ardent champion of the creation of a new state called Pakistan, be installed as the first prime minister of India—a united India. It was a staggering suggestion, roughly along the lines of Abraham Lincoln inviting Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America, to be president of the United States of America—in order to avoid the carnage of the Civil War.

Gandhi placed his radical idea before Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last British viceroy of India. Mountbatten was floored, since Gandhi was essentially saying he would ask his own Hindu-dominated Congress Party to relinquish the power that was about to fall into its lap after decades of struggle.

Jinnah proved intrigued by the offer, according to an account Mountbatten wrote of the conversation, but Gandhi's colleagues in the Congress Party were horrified. A few days after the speech, they rejected the plan.

India was divided and Pakistan born in August 1947, with millions of people killed and displaced during the partition of

the subcontinent. Several wars have broken out between India and Pakistan in subsequent decades, and the public acknowledgment of nuclear weapons on both sides 10 years ago has made this conflict between South Asian neighbors one of the most dangerous standoffs in the world.

Despite Gandhi's success in persuading the British to leave, his ideas about community amity deeply offended many Hindu nationalists unwilling to

■ ■ ■

Gandhi made extraordinary demands of himself and those around him. He rarely told his audiences what they wanted to hear.

"Christianity became disfigured when it went to the West," Gandhi says at one point in the April 1947 speech, possibly referring to the violence of the recently completed Second World War and the anti-Semitism that led to the Holocaust. "(the) West today is pining for wisdom. (The) West today is despairing

killed Hindus. Weeks later, in Bihar, Hindus retaliated against Muslims. The death toll soon climbed into the thousands.

Gandhi saw these blood baths not just as political setbacks but as personal failings. "Sins" in the public sphere reflected "personal sins" for Gandhi. Accordingly, he began to punish himself.

In the months before his April 1947 speech, Gandhi began rising at 4 o'clock each morning, and sometimes at 2, to pray. He was 77, but he undertook a walking tour from village to blood-soaked village in Bengal, covering nearly four dozen villages in as many days. If he was to speak on behalf of the vast numbers of people who lived in poverty in India, Gandhi reasoned, he had to live like a poor person himself.

"If you really want to see India at its best, you have to find it in the Bhangi cottage, in a humble Bhangi home," Gandhi says at one point in the 1947 speech, referring to one of the lowest and poorest castes. "Of such villages, so the English historians teach us, are 700,000. A few cities, here and there; they don't hold 7 crores (70 million) of people but the 700,000 villages do hold nearly 40 crores (400 million) of people."

Gandhi's self-denial and tour of rural poverty was rooted in political philosophy. The central reason people turn to violence, Gandhi believed, was that they were afraid: of others, of the unknown, of losing one's possessions and fortunes, of death. Fear was the root cause of corruption and greed.

The way to destroy fear, Gandhi argued, was to give up the things that people held precious in the first place. When you have no possessions, you fear no thieves. So Gandhi gave up most of his possessions. He gave up emotional ties to family and friends. Sacrificing food, sleep and sex were only a way to show that the needs of his physical body—and life itself—could be held lightly.

Even more than nonviolence, courage was Gandhi's central message: During his "pilgrimage" to put an end to the sectarian strife, for example, he sought out Muslim hosts during his nightly halts to demonstrate to his fellow Hindus that most Muslims wanted to live in peace.

When Hindus retaliated against Muslims in the state of Bihar, Gandhi inflamed angry Hindus when he demanded that state leaders protect Muslims. He warned his colleagues in the Congress Party of dire political consequences if they did not protect minorities.

Gandhi's interlocutors knew he was not bluffing. In his everyday actions, it was clear he really did value his principles above his own life.

It is Gandhi's sincerity that gives his words in the April 1947 speech their power. Many leaders have been far more articulate. If Gandhi is compelling, it is because we know he is that rare person who actually means what he says.

With the horrors of the Holocaust and Hiroshima fresh in his mind, Gandhi talked about finding a way to help the West turn away from violence.

"What I want you to understand—if you can—that the message of the East, the message of Asia, is not to be learned through European spectacles, through Western spectacles, not by imitating the tension of the West, the gunpowder of the West, the atom bomb of the West," Gandhi told his listeners.

"If you want to give a message again to the West, it must be a message of love; it must be a message of truth; there must be a conquest—"Gandhi's words are cut off at this point by a rousing cheer.

Characteristically, Gandhi stops the applause: "Please, please, please," he says. "That will interfere with my speech and that will interfere with your understanding also. I want to capture your hearts, and don't want to receive your claps. Let your hearts clap in unison with what I am saying, and I think I shall have finished my work."

Hear the original recording of Mahatma Gandhi's speech and see video of an interview with his grandson and biographer Rajmohan Gandhi at washingtonpost.com/style.



THE WASHINGTON POST

A chance encounter with Mahatma Gandhi's grandson alerted John Cosgrove, of Washington, to the significance of the recording he had lovingly preserved for 60 years.

accommodate India's Muslim minority. Even as Alfred Wagg was recording the April speech, the emotional ripples that produced the conspiracy to assassinate Gandhi were already swirling. On Jan. 31, 1948, a Hindu extremist fired three bullets into Gandhi's chest at a public prayer meeting in New Delhi.

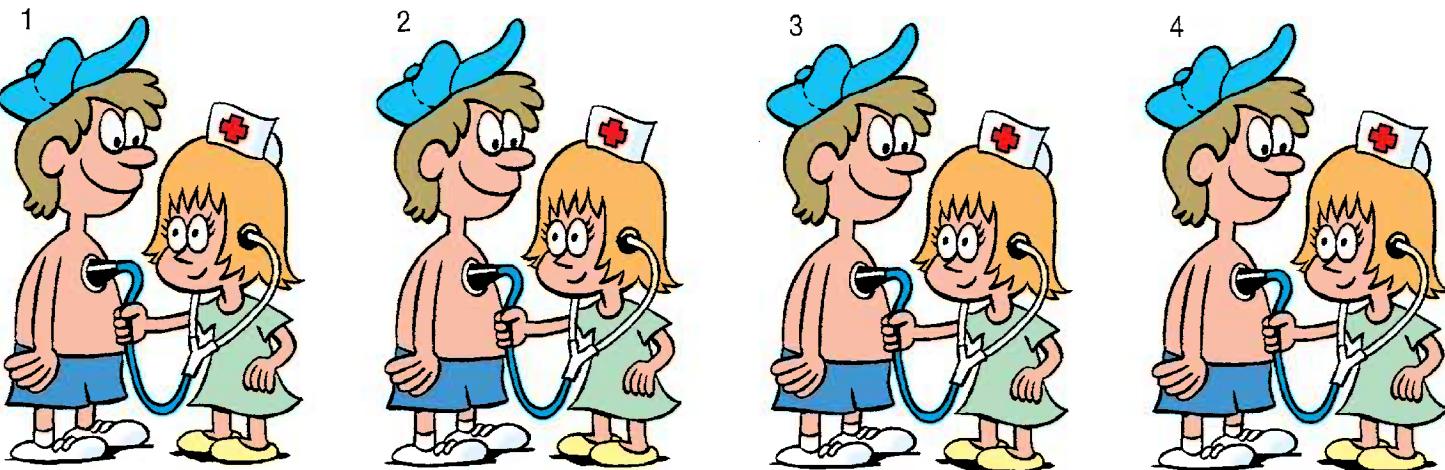
The quiet idealism of Gandhi's speech—along with his radical ideas about love and nonviolence—were consigned to the world of what-ifs.

Bob Weber Jr.'s

SLYLOCK FOX

and
COMICS for KIDS

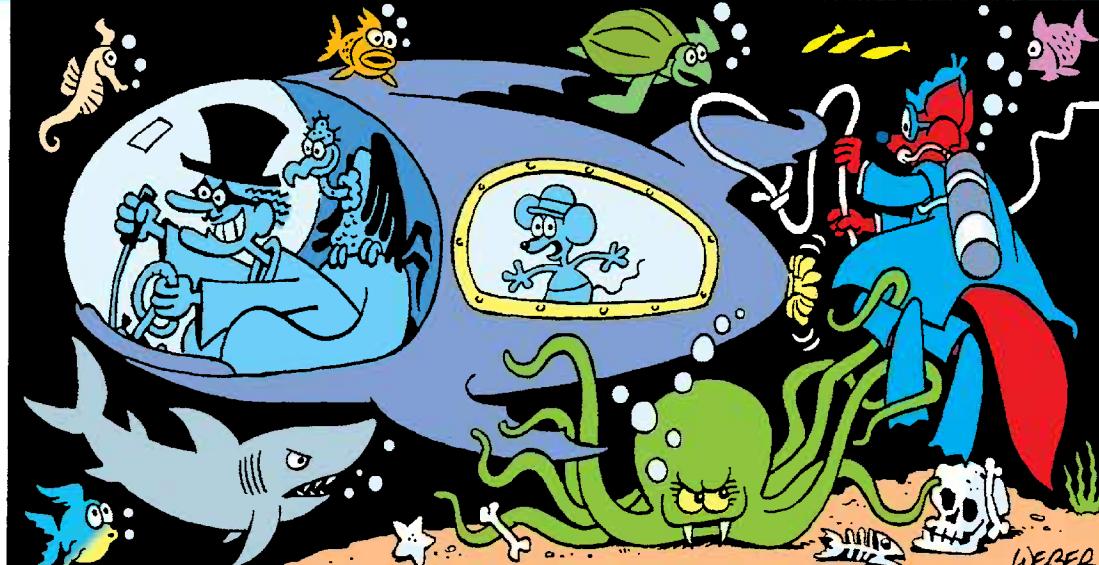
Which two scenes are exactly alike?



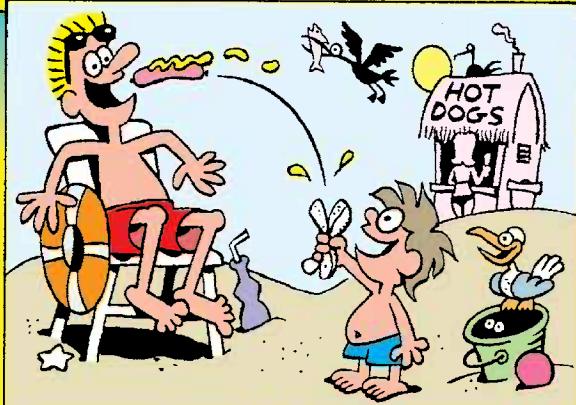
Answer -- Numbers three and four.

Count Weirdly captured Max Mouse and is transporting him to an undersea hideout. Max thinks Slylock is going to hitch a ride, but the fox doesn't have enough oxygen for the journey, and must return to his boat. How will Slylock manage to follow the sub from the surface?

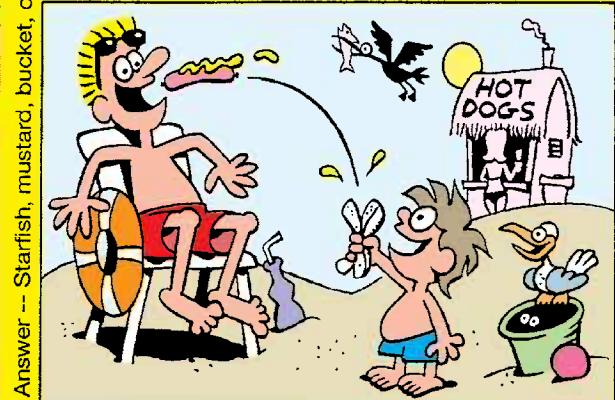
Answer -- Slylock will tie one end of a rope to a lifeline marker and the other end to the marker's sub. He will follow this boat.



Find six differences between these panels.

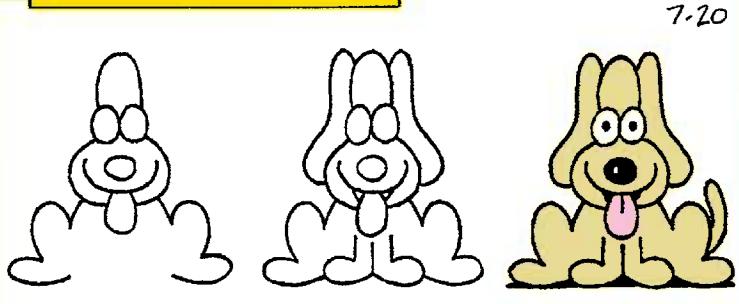


www.kidcartoonists.com



New! The fourth *Find the six differences* collection is here. Send \$4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to *Six Differences No. 4*, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

HOW TO DRAW a puppy



YOUR DRAWING

This week's awesome young artist is Ryan Cahill, age 12, of Terre Haute, IN

Submit your drawings at www.kidcartoonists.com

A shark is a fish, but it does not have ...

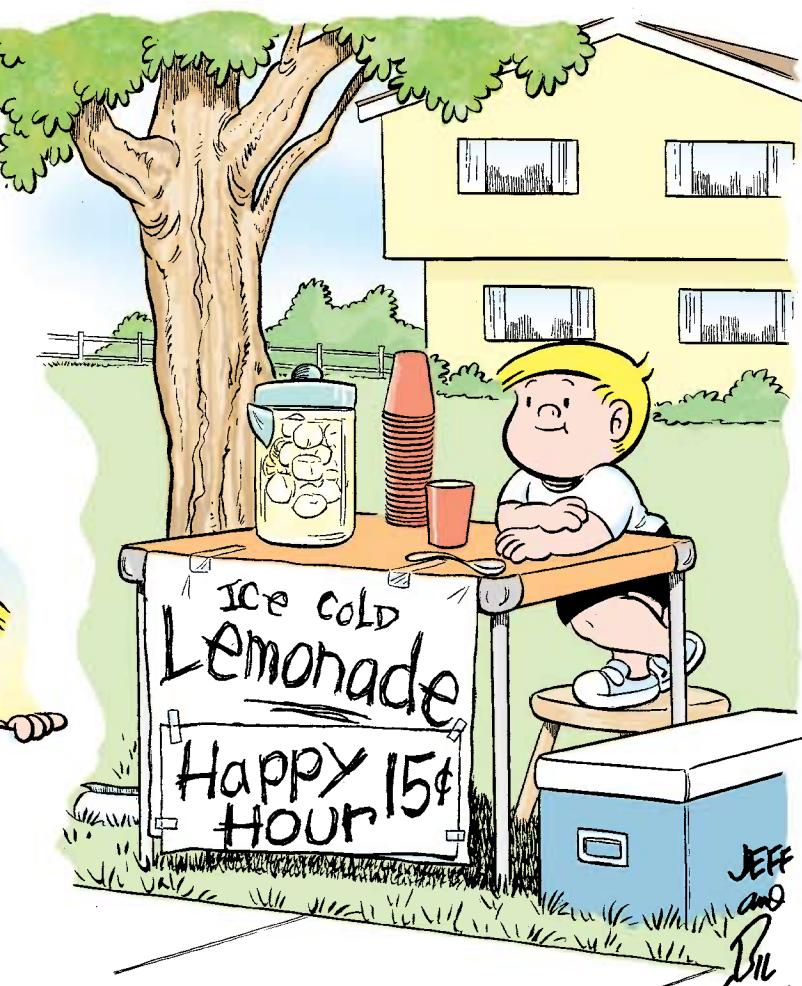
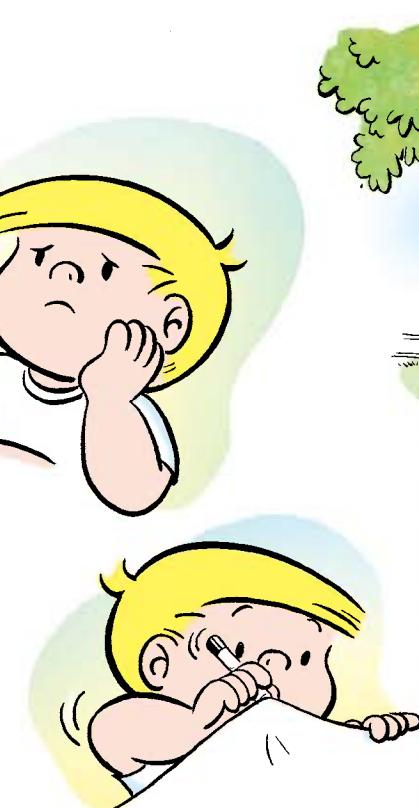
- a) Gills
- b) Scales
- c) Bones
- d) Teeth

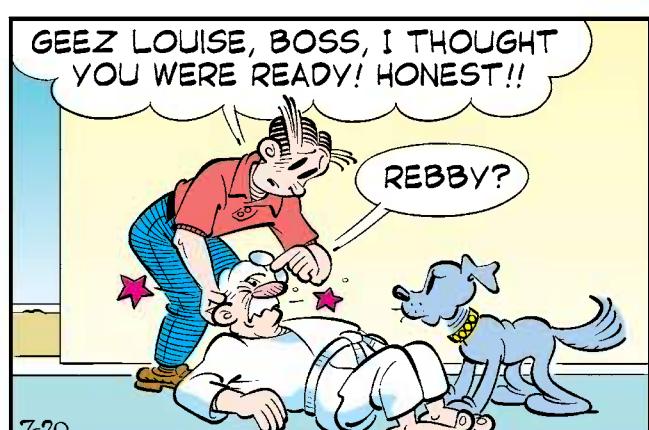
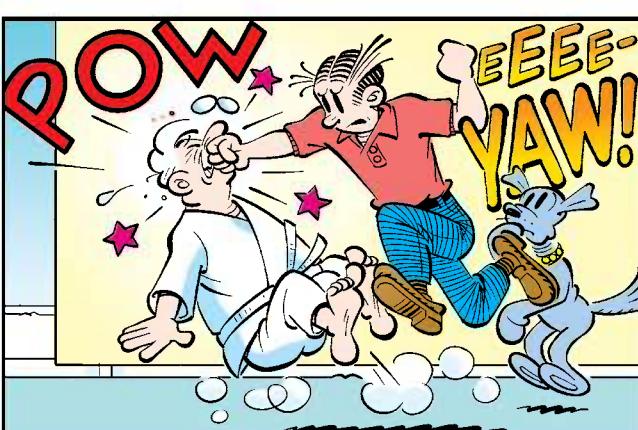
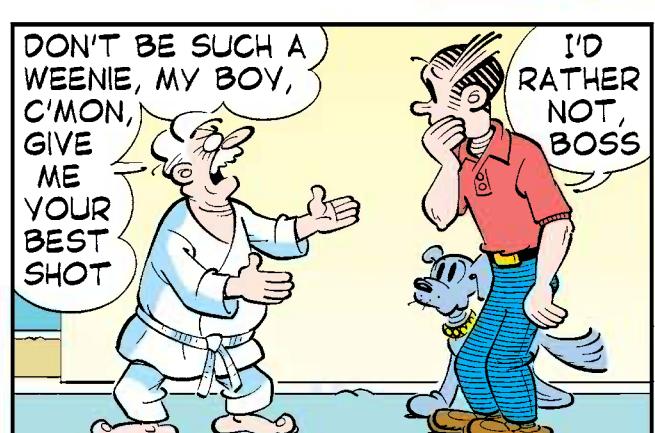
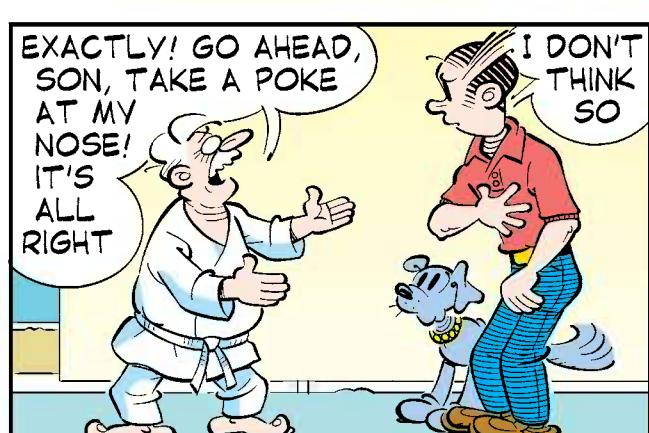
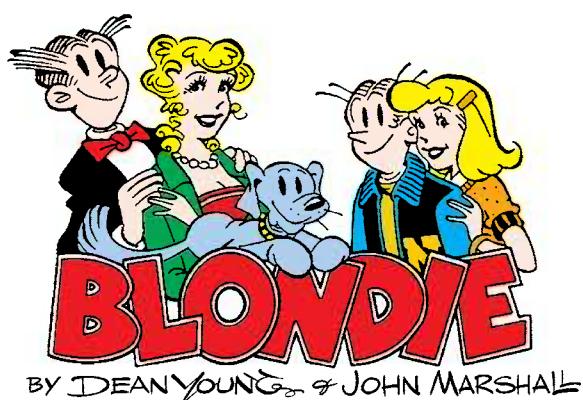
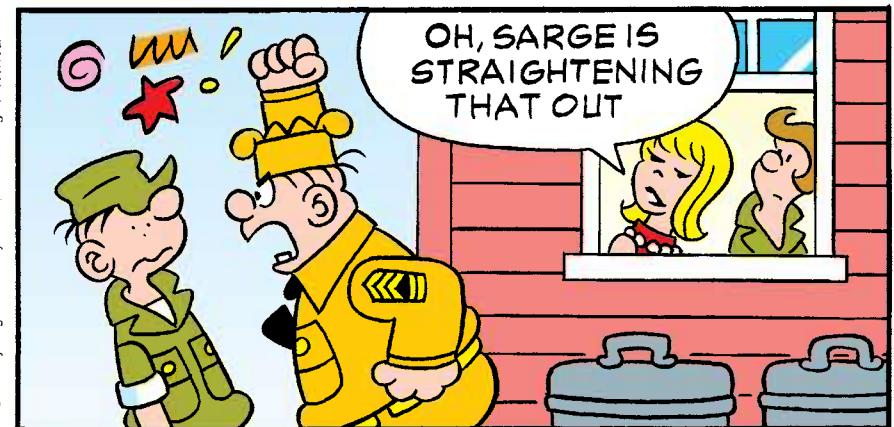
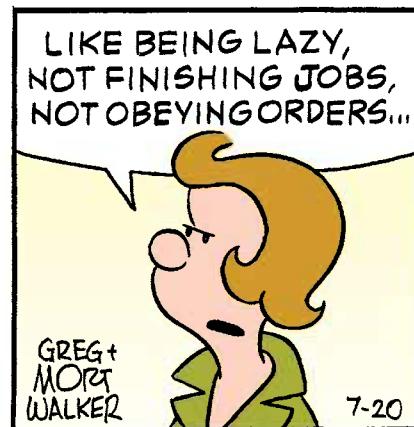
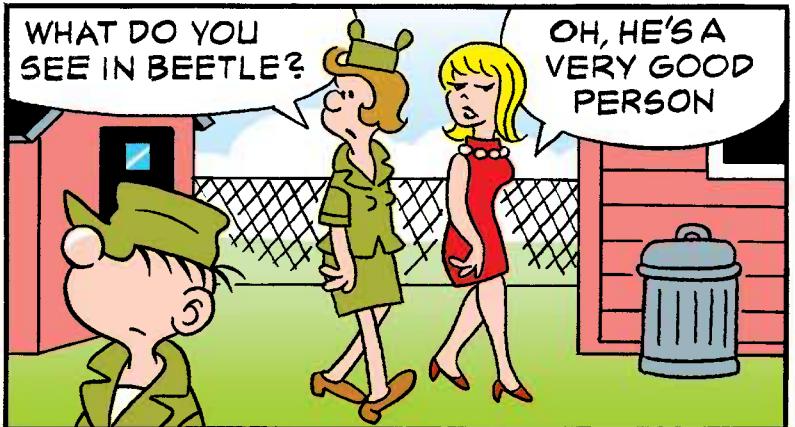
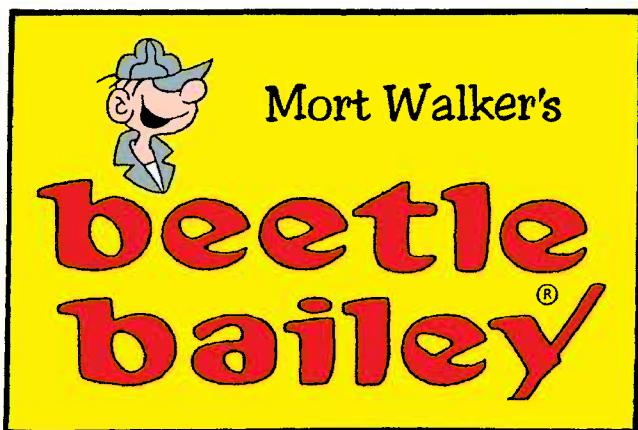
Answer -- (c) A shark skeleton is made of cartilage.

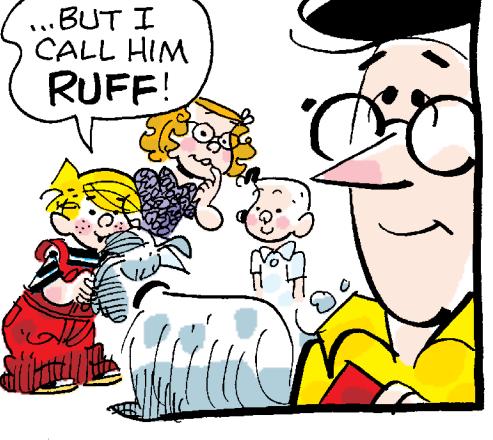
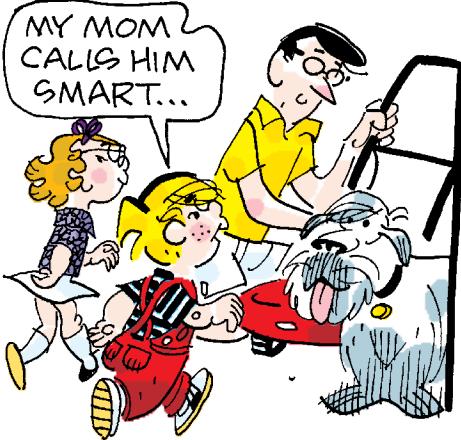
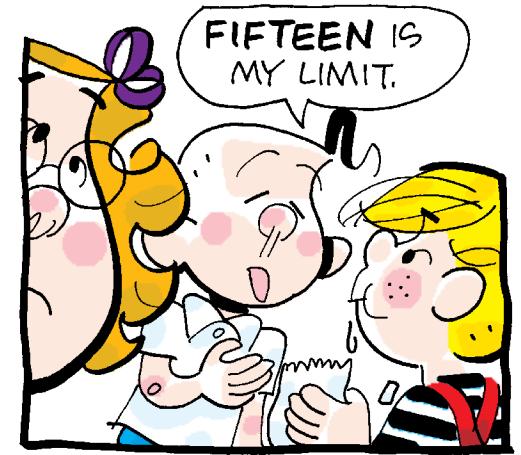
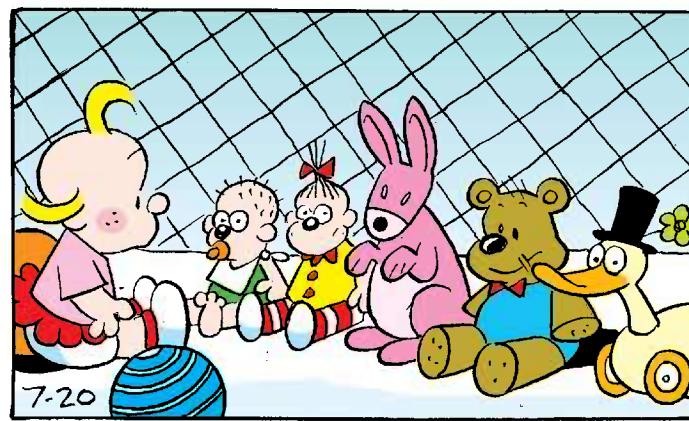
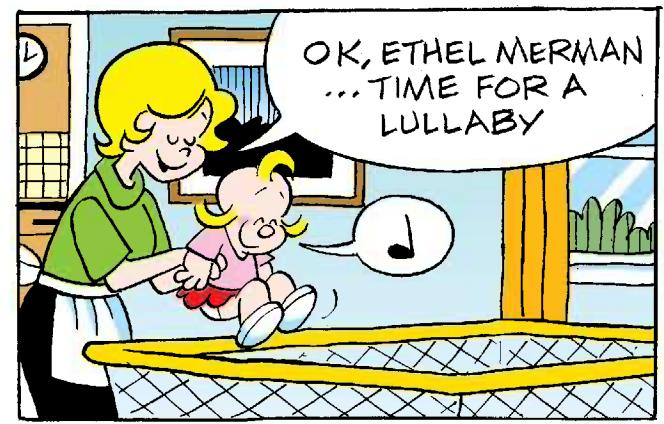
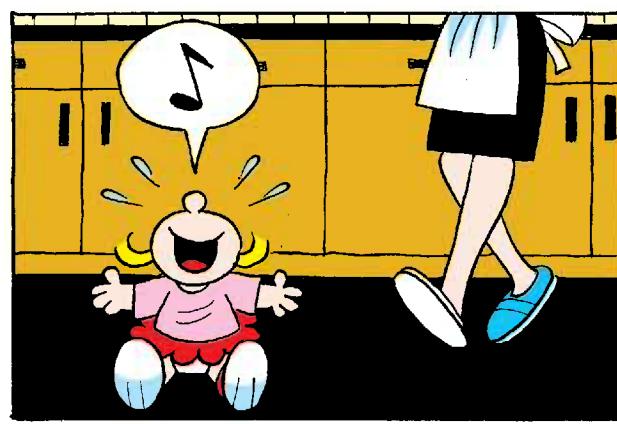
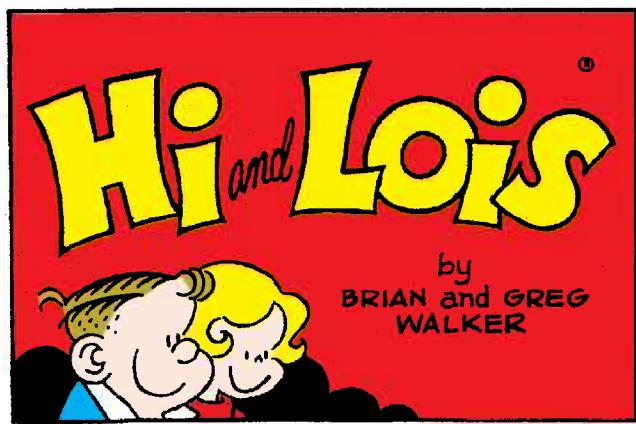
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By BIL KEANE









Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your persistence pays off as the information you demanded starts to come through. The pace is slow at first, but it begins to speed up as the week draws to a close.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) An unwelcome bit of news jolts the Bovine, who would prefer that things proceed smoothly. But it's at most a momentary setback. A Leo brings more welcome tidings.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You need to pay close attention to the details before making a commitment. Don't accept anything that seems questionable, unless you get an answer that can be backed up.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Congratulations on getting that project up and running. But as exciting as it is, don't let it carry you away. Make sure you set aside time to spend with family and friends.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Be sure you're part of the discussion involving your suggestions. Your presence ensures that you can defend your work, if necessary. It also helps gain your colleagues' support.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A misunderstanding needs to be dealt with, or it can grow and cause more problems later on. Be the bigger person and take the first step to clear the air.



LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Set some strict guidelines for yourself so your heavier-than-usual work schedule doesn't overwhelm the time you need to spend relaxing with loved ones.



SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might feel a little uncomfortable being among people you hardly know. But remember that today's strangers can become tomorrow's valuable contacts.



SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Reward yourself for all that you've accomplished despite some annoying situations that got in your way. Enjoy a well-earned getaway with someone special.



CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Realizing that someone else is taking credit for what you did is bound to get anyone's goat, but especially yours. Be patient. The truth soon comes out.



AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Forget about opposites attracting. What you need is to find someone who thinks like you and will support your ideas, even if others say they're too radical.



PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Workplace problems can affect your financial plans. Be prudent and avoid running up bills or making commitments until things begin to ease up by the 25th.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your intuition helps you communicate easily with people and understand their needs.

King Crossword

ACROSS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
			18			19		20		
21	22	23				24				
25			26		27	28		29	30	
31			32	33	34	35				
36			37	38	39	40				
41		42	43	44						
45	46				47					
48		49	50			51	52	53		
54		55				56				
57		58				59				

the collar?

49 Wisconsin city

31 Piece of work

33 Grumpy companion

35 Bed-frame part

36 Righthand page

38 Small barrel

40 Altar

41 Stow cargo

43 Impish one

45 Clark Kent's newspaper

47 Moose's cousin

48 Ring around

landing site

6 Right angle

7 Pseudonym

8 "Old Folks at Home"

55 Prophets

56 Past

57 Gorilla

58 Islamic God

59 Church seating

10 Praise highly

11 Coffee shop vessels

16 Darker than beige

20 Individuals

21 Smell

22 Vatican VIP

23 Wisconsin city

27 Stir-fry pan

29 Poet

Teasdale

30 And others (Lat.)

32 Ollie's partner

34 Brains

37 Black Sea port

39 Overshoe

42 Lucy's pal

44 Firmament

45 Entreaty

46 Bound

50 Moray, e.g.

51 Space

52 Time of your life?

53 Present

top ten

Longest Coastlines	
1. Canada	
2. Norway	
3. Indonesia	
4. Russia	
5. Philippines	
6. Japan	
7. Australia	
8. United States	
9. New Zealand	
10. Greece	

Source: CIA World Factbook

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KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

M	A	D	S	P	A	M	A	I	Z	E
O	D	E	E	A	U	L	C	E	R	
S	A	C	L	I	G	H	T	B	E	R
E	G	F	R	O	U	I	T			
S	E	R	F	E	R	L	A	O	S	
R	E	D	S	L	I	E	N	M	Y	
J	A	B	O	T	D	O	G			
F	L	I	G	H	T					
K	E	G	S	O	P	O	B	I	T	
L	I	G	H	T	R	S	N	O	R	
A	D	O	R	E	M	I	A	G	O	
B	O	O	S	T	S	L	Y	N	O	R

United States

Four killed in Houston crane collapse

By MONICA RHOR
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HOUSTON (AP)—One of the nation's largest mobile cranes collapsed at a Houston oil refinery Friday, killing four workers and injuring seven others in the latest of several fatal accidents that have raised concerns about the safety

of construction cranes.

The 30-story-tall crane, capable of lifting 1 million pounds, fell over at a LyondellBasell refinery in southeast Houston about 2 p.m., said Jim Roecker, the company's vice president for refining.

The massive, deep red crane lay on top of a smaller, bright yellow

Conjoined barn swallows cause stir in Arkansas

By JON GAMBRELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—It's an Arkansas bird story that at first might be hard to swallow. A pair of conjoined barn swallows, attached at the hip by skin and possibly muscle tissue, will be sent to the Smithsonian Institution for study and examination, Arkansas wildlife officials said Friday. If confirmed, officials say it could prove to be an incredibly rare find - a set of conjoined twins among birds.

"I can't even say it's one in a million - it's probably more than that," said Karen Rowe, an ornithologist with the Arkansas Game & Fish

Commission. "There's just very little to no records of such a thing."

The birds, found by a landowner in White County earlier this week, fell out of a nest as a healthy sibling flew off to learn how to hunt with its parents, Rowe said. The birds first appeared to have only three legs, but further examination found a fourth leg tucked up underneath the skin connecting the pair.

Rowe said the landowner likely kept the birds for a day before calling wildlife officials. By the time officials arrived, the two birds refused to eat. One of the birds died early Friday morning and a veterinarian later euthanized the other.

low crane on the grounds of the refinery. Ambulances and fire trucks were lined up outside.

The casualties were in the area of the crane, but officials still aren't certain whether they

were on the crane or under it, Roecker said.

Three of the injured were

treated and released at the scene, said Houston Fire Department Assistant Chief Omero Longoria. Two severely injured workers were taken by helicopter to Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center hospital and the other two injured workers was taken to a hospital by ambulance.

The crane belonged to Deep South Crane & Rigging. Roecker described it as one of the nation's largest mobile cranes, at 300 feet tall with a 400-foot boom. Construction cranes run taller, but they are not mobile.

The crane had not been scheduled to do any work until next week, but Roecker said its engine was idling after it hit the ground.

"This is a traumatic experience for all of us. We have to focus on the safety and health of our employees," Roecker said.

Deep South spokeswoman Margaret Landry issued a statement from the company's headquarters in Baton Rouge, La., saying it was investigating "to determine the root cause, correct it and ensure that this type of tragedy does not occur again."

Aerial views of the site weren't immediately available; air space around Houston was restricted because President Bush was in town raising funds for a congressional candidate.

Near the scene of the collapse, Mattie Graham stood with her husband, Deep South worker Horace Graham.

"I'm thinking about their families. He could have been there today," she said, gesturing to her husband.

The refinery has about 3,000 LyondellBasell workers and 1,500 contract workers, Roecker said. He said all personnel at the plant were accounted for, and the plant was operating as usual.



Workers leave the LyondellBasell refinery where authorities say a crane collapse has left four people dead and six hurt Friday, July 18, 2008 in Houston. AP

McCain adviser Gramm quits after 'whiners' remarks

By DEVLIN BARRETT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Texas Sen. Phil Gramm resigned Friday from his role as GOP presidential candidate John McCain's campaign co-chairman, hoping to quiet the uproar that followed his comments that the United States had become

a "nation of whiners" whose constant complaints about the U.S. economy show they are in a "mental recession."

Gramm, a past presidential candidate, made the remarks more than a week ago. McCain immediately distanced himself from the comments, but they brought a steady stream of criticism just as McCain is trying

to show he can help steer the country past its current financial troubles.

Gramm said in a statement late Friday that he is stepping down to "end this distraction."

"It is clear to me that Democrats want to attack me rather than debate Senator McCain on important economic issues facing the country," Gramm said.

"That kind of distraction hurts not only Senator McCain's ability to present concrete programs to deal with the country's problems, it hurts the country. To end this distraction and get on with the real debate, I hereby step down as co-chair of the McCain campaign and join the growing number of rank-and-file McCain supporters."

Cops: Body at home of woman who claimed baby buy

By DAN NEPHIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WILKINSBURG, Pa. (AP)—A body with its hands bound was found Friday at the apartment of a woman who showed up at a hospital with a newborn she falsely claimed was her child but later said she had obtained for \$1,000, authorities said.

The body was found in the

home of 38-year-old Andrea Curry-Demus, police said. Authorities would not say whether it was male or female.

Wilkinsburg Police Chief Ophelia Coleman said the body was found lying face down. She said she didn't know how long it had been there. Investigators said police checked on Curry-Demus' apartment after reporters called authorities about a foul odor coming from inside.

Police visited the building Thursday night but did not go into that apartment, Coleman said. Instead, a relative of Curry-Demus led them to another apartment, she said.

Earlier Friday, police said they were concerned that the infant's real mother - described as a thin, black female in her 20s or 30s named Tina - might be in danger, or need medical attention.

The description was provided

by Curry-Demus but authorities aren't sure how reliable it is because she "has a history of emotional problems," Coleman said earlier Friday.

Curry-Demus pleaded guilty in 1991 to aggravated assault after stabbing a Wilkinsburg woman in an alleged plot to steal the woman's infant. Curry-Demus, then known as Andrea Curry, was sentenced to 10 years' probation.

Judge restores protection for N. Rockies wolves

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)—A federal judge has restored endangered species protections for gray wolves in the Northern Rockies, derailing plans by three states to hold public wolf hunts this fall. U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy granted a preliminary injunction late Friday restoring the protections for the wolves in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. Molloy will eventually decide whether the injunction should be permanent. The region has an estimated 2,000 gray wolves. They were removed from the endangered species list in March, following a decade-long restoration effort. Environmentalists sued to overturn the decision, arguing wolf numbers would plummet if hunting were allowed.

Asia

India bus terminal blast hurts 35

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Suspected Muslim rebels threw a grenade at a crowded bus terminal in the Indian portion of Kashmir on Friday, wounding 35 people, including seven children, police said.

The suspected separatists hurled a hand grenade at a police and paramilitary patrol near a busy bus stop in Banihal, roughly 75 miles south of

Jammu-Kashmir state's main city, Srinagar, said senior police official Hemant Lohia.

At least five people were wounded critically and were rushed to a hospital. Six police and paramilitary officers were wounded, Lohia said.

The Himalayan region of Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan and claimed by both in its entirety.

About a dozen rebel groups have been fighting Indian government forces to carve out a separate homeland or to merge Jammu-Kashmir—India's only Muslim-majority state—with Pakistan. At least 68,000 people, most of them civilians, have been killed since the start of the rebellion in 1989.

No group claimed responsibility for Friday's attack.

2 French aid workers are kidnapped in Afghanistan

AMIR SHAH
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Two French humanitarian workers were kidnapped at gunpoint Friday in Afghanistan and spirited out of the house they were

sleeping in, the aid group Action Against Hunger and the French Foreign Ministry said.

The two are believed to be alive, the Paris-based group said in a statement.

Also Friday, explosions were reported in Helmand

Province and in Kabul. A Friday morning blast in Helmand province's Nava district killed three guards and wounded four, said provincial police chief Mohammad Hussein Andiwal.

Later Friday, Mohammad Nasim, a police official in Kabul, reported that an explosion in the western part of the capital had damaged property, including a mosque, in a residential neighborhood. There were no reports of casualties.

The blast occurred near an office of the Afghan Millat, or Afghan Nation, political party, but it was not clear whether there was any link.

The bombings and kidnappings come amid concern that the Taliban-led insurgency is gaining momentum seven years after the hard-line Islamic regime was ousted by a U.S.-led invasion. Violence has been on the rise in the country, and just this week militants penetrated an American outpost in the east, killing nine U.S. soldiers.

The two sides, their guns drawn, faced off late Thursday at a pagoda about 650 feet from the 11th century Preah Vihear temple, but the Cambodians eventually pulled back from what could have blown up into an international incident, Brig. Gen. Chea Keo said.

Cambodia: Near shootout in dispute on Thailand's border

PREAH VIHEAR, Cambodia (AP)—A Cambodian general said Friday that his troops and Thai soldiers engaged in a tense armed confrontation when Cambodian monks sought to celebrate Buddhist lent near a temple in a disputed border area.

The two sides, their guns drawn, faced off late Thursday at a pagoda about 650 feet from the 11th century Preah Vihear temple, but the Cambodians eventually pulled back from what could have blown up into an international incident, Brig. Gen. Chea Keo said.

"We exercised patience to prevent weapons from being fired," he said. A Thai army spokeswoman said she was not aware of anything taking place in the border dispute, which entered its fourth day Friday.

The simmering conflict over territory surrounding the ancient temple came to a head last week when UNESCO approved Cambodia's application for World Heritage Site status for the temple. Thai activists fear the new status will undermine Thailand's claim to nearby land since the border has never been demarcated.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghans free journalist who took execution pics

Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan journalist who contributes to The Associated Press was freed Friday after his pictures and video footage of two women brazenly executed by the Taliban led intelligence officials to hold him for questioning for two days. Rahmatullah Naikzad confirmed that authorities had released him, saying he was "fine," and that he'd been let go in time to attend a family funeral. Naikzad's pictures and footage of the slain women in central Ghazni province, a few hours outside of the capital, were aired internationally and in Afghanistan, prompting widespread anger in Afghanistan over the killings.

More than 100 Chinese villagers protest man's death

BEIJING (AP)—More than a hundred Chinese villagers attacked a police station to protest the death of a man they say was beaten by local Communist Party security guards, police said Friday, the latest in a recent spate of violence triggered by discontent with authorities. Relatives gathered Thursday after Ouyang Jiusheng, 40, died in a motorcycle accident near Shangnan village in the southern province of Guangdong, according to a police statement sent via e-mail. A police officer and a doctor determined that Ouyang died of injuries sustained after his bike overturned, however, the relatives argued he was beaten by the guards who refused to let police take his body away, it said.

Rice to meet N. Korean foreign minister at summit

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Top diplomats from the U.S. and North Korea will meet next week along with their counterparts from regional nuclear talks, the State Department said Friday, the highest level of contact between the countries amid recent progress on Pyongyang's disarmament. The talks, which will include U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and North Korean Foreign Minister Pak Ui Chun, will take place on the sidelines of an Asian security meeting in Singapore that all the countries' foreign ministers had already planned to attend, said State Department spokesman Sean McCormack.

Sri Lanka protesters stop trains to halt evictions

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Angry protesters halted trains and clashed with policemen in Sri Lanka's capital Friday as authorities began demolishing their homes, saying they were unauthorized constructions that encroached on government lands. Police used tear gas to disperse the protesters who pelted stones and placed logs across a nearby rail road halting train transport for a few hours. Opposition lawmaker Ravi Karunanayake said officials were tearing down the homes in violation of a Supreme Court stay order but were forced to stop because of the protest. He said the demolition was part of government's plans to increase security ahead of a South Asian leaders' summit starting later this month.

World

Pope apologizes for clergy sexual abuse

By VICTOR L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ble for these "evils must be brought to justice."

Support groups for victims of church abuse in Australia, whose numbers are not known but who activists say are in the thousands, had demanded the pope make a full and open apology for clergy abuse and do more to prevent future abuse.

The pontiff is in



Pope Benedict XVI

Australia to lead hundreds of thousands of pilgrims in the church's World Youth Day, a global celebration meant to inspire a new generation of Catholics.

There was no immediate word whether Benedict would

meet with victims of clergy abuse, as he did during his trip to the United States in April, when he also expressed his shame for the scandal.

On Friday, the 81-year-old pontiff told representatives of Islam and other faiths that they must unite to combat religion's role in "sinister and indiscriminate" violence.

Without mentioning terrorism directly, the pontiff said there were those in who were using religion "as a cause of division rather than a force for unity" in a 40-minute exchange with Australian Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist leaders in Sydney.

S. African said to be new UN rights chief

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United Nations chief told rights advocates Friday that his choice to be the next U.N. human rights commissioner is a South African judge who was the first black woman to serve on her country's High Court, the director of Human Rights Watch said.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said he had selected Navanethem Pillay for the job, but he had not yet taken official action, said Kenneth Roth, who was among a dozen representatives from human rights groups who met with Ban.

"Ban described her as the presumptive nominee," Roth said.

Ban's office is expected to announce her appointment early next week, said U.N. and diplomatic officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because the appointment had not yet been announced.

Pillay, who is now an appeals chamber judge with the International Criminal Court in the Hague, Netherlands, must be approved by U.N. General Assembly.

Hundreds of baby penguins found dead on Brazil's coast

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP)—Hundreds of baby penguins swept from the icy shores of Antarctica and Patagonia are washing up dead on Rio de Janeiro's tropical beaches, rescuers and penguin experts said Friday.

More than 400 penguins, most of them young, have been found dead on the beaches of Rio de Janeiro state over the past two months, according to Eduardo Pimenta, superintendent for the state coastal protection and environment agency in the resort city of Cabo Frio.

While it is common here to find some penguins—both dead and alive—swept by strong ocean currents from the Strait of Magellan, Pimenta said there

have been more this year than at any time in recent memory.

Rescuers and those who treat penguins are divided over the possible causes.

Thiago Muniz, a veterinarian at the Niteroi Zoo, said he believed overfishing has forced the penguins to swim further from shore to find fish to eat "and that leaves them more vulnerable to getting caught up in the strong ocean currents."

Niteroi, the state's biggest zoo, already has already received about 100 penguins for treatment this year and many are drenched in petroleum, Muniz said. The Campos oil field that supplies most of Brazil's oil lies offshore.

Senior US envoy joins Iran nuke talks

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—A senior U.S. envoy will sit eye-to-eye for the first time Saturday with a top Iranian nuclear negotiator, a sharp reversal in U.S. policy that aims to entice Tehran into ending activities that could be used to make atomic weapons.

The move to send Undersec-

etary of State William Burns to the Geneva nuclear talks has raised the hackles of Washington hardliners who say it signals U.S. weakness. But supporters insist because both Tehran and the United States want to ease tensions, the move could breathe life into deadlocked nuclear talks.

On the eve of the meeting,

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said the talks offered hope for a peaceful solution to the standoff over Tehran's nuclear program. But he also expects no quick changes from Iran, which has said "the essentials"—an apparent reference to suspending uranium enrichment—will not be on the table.

Focus

Mandela beams at grandchildren's 'Happy Birthday'

By CELEAN JACOBSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

QUNU, South Africa (AP)—Nelson Mandela sat beaming in a yellow armchair, his legs propped up on a large stool and covered with a pale yellow blanket. Ten grandchildren crowded around to serenade him with "Happy Birthday" and then smothered him with hugs and kisses.

The anti-apartheid icon celebrated his 90th birthday Friday with his family at his home in rural southeastern South Africa and the whole village turned out.

Elders in traditional dress came to pay their respects, sheep were trucked into the property and a troupe of bare-breasted young women sang and danced in preparation for Mandela's lunch with 500 dignitaries Saturday.

He still found time to settle down to read a pile of newspapers, to keep up with local and international affairs.

Sounding and looking vigorous, Mandela told a small group of reporters he was fortunate to have reached 90, crediting his "behavior" for his longevity.

But the man who has become a symbol of peace remains troubled by the demoralizing poverty still faced by so many of his countrymen.

"If you are poor, you are not likely to live long," he said.

His message was simple—the wealthy must do more.

"There are many people in South Africa who are rich and who can share those riches with those not so fortunate, who have not been able to conquer poverty," Mandela said during the 10-minute interview, his first such exchange with journalists in years.

He was asked if he wished he could have had more time with his family during a life spent fighting apartheid and then leading South Africa as its first black president.

"I am sure for many people that is their wish," Mandela said. "I also have that wish that I spent more time (with my family). But I don't regret it."

His third wife, Graca Machel, whom he married 10 years ago on his birthday, said in a TV interview that he was a lonely man despite his busy schedule as a leader when she met him a few years after he divorced Winnie Madikizela-Mandela in 1996.

She told Al-Jazeera television she helped him reconnect with his family.

"If I could say in a very modest way, that's what I was able to give him back," Machel, a noted campaigner for children's rights, said in the interview broadcast Friday. "I'm happy that in his sunset years I was able to be there for him."



Former South Africa's President Nelson Mandela poses with his grandchildren, at his home in Qunu, South Africa, Friday, July 18, 2008.

AP

And he is there for me."

Mandela was imprisoned for nearly three decades for his fight against apartheid. He was released in 1990 to lead negotiations that ended decades of racist white rule, then was elected president in South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994.

He completed his term in 1999 and did not run again, but has continued to take a leading role in the fight against poverty, illiteracy and AIDS in Africa.

Tukwini Mandela, 33, one of Mandela's granddaughters, said Friday was "a special day because we are planning a huge party on Saturday and we are hoping he is going to enjoy it."

"We have invited his oldest friends who have meant something to him and have made a difference in his life," she said.

While not all Mandela's 18 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren were attending the celebrations, many were present Friday, creat-

ing a warm atmosphere in the house, decorated with animal skin mats and African prints on the walls.

Wearing one of his signature patterned shirts in shades of green, gold and black, Mandela glanced pensively out a window

at the start of his interview with The Associated Press and a few other news organizations. "This is my property. When I am here, I feel I own something," he said of the homestead in the rural area 600 miles south of Johannesburg where as a boy he herded cattle in the hills.

His grandchildren spoke of their pride in Mandela, the responsibility of bearing his name and the desire to protect the old man who could not be there when they were growing up.

"We are extremely proud of his achievements and the sacrifices he made," said Nandi Mandela, 40. "His humanity and his love for the people, especially children have made him into this world icon. We love him dearly."

She said birthdays have always been special occasions for her grandfather. She recalled how, without fail, she would receive a greeting card from him in prison—even though he was only allowed to write a limited number of

letters every month.

Mandela's birthday is annual cause for celebration across South Africa and draws attention from his many local and international admirers.

Two runners holding South African flags circled Robben Island, where Mandela spent most of his 27 years in jail. In Johannesburg, children celebrated with birthday cake at the offices of the foundation Mandela founded after stepping down as president in 1999, and his African National Congress party unfurled giant banners featuring his image at its downtown headquarters.

Birthday messages have been pouring in, including one Friday from President Bush, who applauded Mandela as "a great example of courage, hope, and the power of freedom."

Mandela at first planned a quiet affair at his home in the picturesque Xhosa homeland, with its rolling hills and turquoise huts. But there are now a variety of events planned in his honor in and around Qunu, including a soccer festival and a pop concert. The lunch Saturday will be attended by President Thabo Mbeki and veterans of the anti-apartheid struggle.

An exhibition of letters that children wrote to Mandela and the late U.S. civil rights campaigner Rosa Parks will be

displayed at the Nelson Mandela Museum, a short distance from his house.

"He is like a typical birthday boy," said Ndileka Mandela, 43, adding that he frequently checked to see who was on the guest list. "He really wants to have the birthday here."

Bantu Holomisa, a former leader of the Xhosa homeland and close family friend, has been helping oversee preparations for Saturday's event.

The oxen were slaughtered according to traditional rituals and local women worked on a meal to be shared by local villagers, he said.

"For him (Mandela) the community is more important than the guests who he knows are going to be well looked after," Holomisa said.

It was clear Mandela is very important to the community. Schoolgirls shouted birthday greetings from taxi windows as they drove past the house, little children dressed in rags sang outside the gate and people came and went throughout the day.

"Today is an important day for the family of Mandela," said Nokwanele Balizulu, chief of Qunu. "Mandela is our father, our grandfather who released from the apartheid government and who was prepared to die for us."



Learners from the Bertrams Junior School clamour to touch a statue of Nelson Mandela as they celebrate their school's 90th year as well as Nelson Mandela's 90th birthday at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg Friday July 18, 2008.

Life & Style

Chic and DIY twists on the friendship bracelet

By AMY SCATTERGOOD
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

They're an artifact of summer camps and sleepovers—bands of brightly colored and knotted threads that encircle wrists or ankles, softened by sunlight and ocean swims, durable as best friends and childhood.

Now friendship bracelets have grown-up panache too.

Jewelry designer Scosha Woolridge is weaving natural-colored linen with diamonds and rubies and anchoring the ends with 18-karat gold buttons. This fall, J.Crew is featuring striped friendship bracelets—inspired by '30s-era club ties—in its men's collection, each hand-made in London with hand-dyed linen and secured with an elegant metal buckle.

Of course, this is friendship bought and paid for: The J. Crew bracelet will be \$150 (at jcrew.com), and Woolridge's pieces start at \$270 (scosha-nyc.com). But in the true spirit of friendship, Woolridge showed us how to make a bracelet.

With a few skeins of embroidery floss and a pretty button or coin, you can knot your own stylish band—for less than \$5. Preppy and nautical or bling-studded and chic, these are hardly the bracelets you wore in fourth grade. But they're still woven with the same happy nostalgia.

Woolridge, an Australian who lives in New York, started making the bracelets while traveling in Brazil,



Jewelry designer Scosha Woolridge shares her "how to" on new-generation friendship bracelets.
LOS ANGELES TIMES

where she gave them to newfound friends. Her bracelets aren't much different from the ones you made as a kid, though she adds a button or a buckle, so that you can actually take them off. The original conceit was that you tied the ends together and wore the bracelet until it—or your friendship—disintegrated.

"I like to call them travel bracelets,

because they feel closely connected to the beauty of traveling," she says. "We travel every day of our lives."

The first step: Take a long double length of embroidery floss, loop it (the loop forms the buttonhole) and tape the loop down on a work area. Then tie six more double lengths to the loop (this makes a nice thick bracelet) and start knotting.

In about two hours (about the duration of a movie or a series of campfire stories), your bracelet will be done. Stop when it's the circumference of your wrist or ankle. Tie a few extra knots to even up the bottom, and anchor a button with the loose strings.

You can get fancy and add extra buttons or coins (try a vintage leather or Scandinavian metal but-

ton, an antique ring or charm, an old earring, even a Chinese coin with a hole in the middle).

You can keep going (use longer threads) to form a double bracelet.

Or you can just tie off the ends for a pretty tassel and present your friend with the stunning results.

It's the perfect accessory for a grown-up camping trip with your new BFF.

A custom friendship bracelet in seven steps

(C) 2008, Los Angeles Times

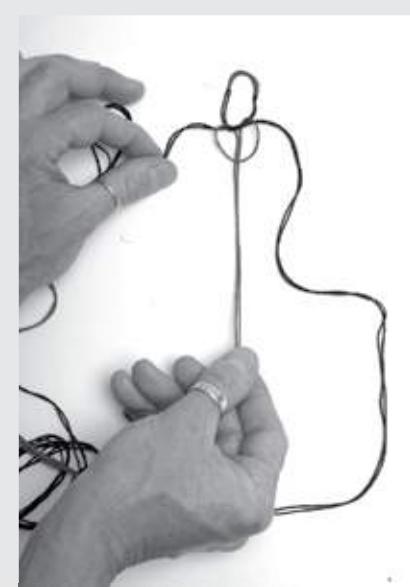
Adapted from Scosha Woolridge

Time: about 2 hours
Measurements: adjustable
Materials: two skeins embroidery

floss, main color; one skein each of two secondary colors; one button.



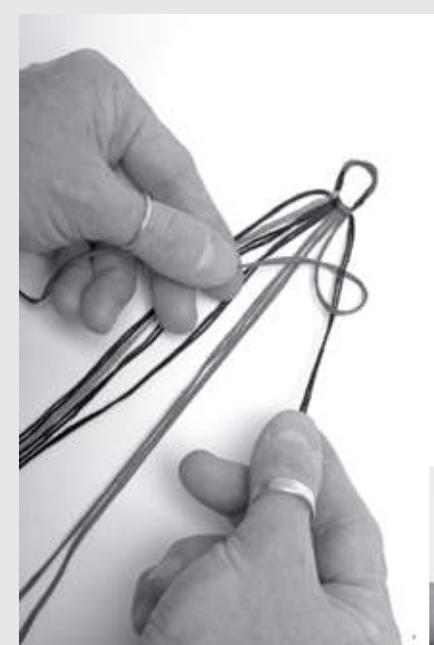
Cut one 140-inch length of the main color of embroidery floss. Fold it in half so that the strand is doubled, then make a loop in the center. Place the loop on a table and tape it down across the circle, leaving the two long strings free.



Cut six 70-inch lengths of embroidery floss, two of the main color, one of a secondary color, and three of the other secondary color. One at a time, take each length of floss and double it, taking the loop end and threading it through the lower edge of the loop of the main color so that the top is anchored and the two threads hang down.



Repeat this with all threads, so that you have eight (including the ends of the loop) double threads hanging down. Adjust the loop so that it fits the button.



Tie each strand in a double knot around the strand immediately to the right of it (working all the way across). As you work your way left, the knots will accumulate, forming a little triangle. It's important to tie the knots tightly, particularly in the beginning, as you're making a platform for the stripes that will follow.



See *A CUSTOM* on Next Page

A 540-calorie Big Mac? NY chains post calorie info

By DAVID B. CARUSO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Customers at big fast-food chains in New York City are finally facing the facts about their meal choic-

es. And for some, the truth may be hard to swallow - like 1,130 calories for a Big Mac, medium fries and a medium soda.

After months of resistance, the city's chain restaurants have begun obeying a first-of-its-kind

THREE WISE GUYS

Car horns, preexisting conditions, lights, wind

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE and DAN ZAK
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Dear Wise Guys:

When I was growing up in Georgia, people had these novelty car horns that would play "Dixie" rather than just honk. I'm not interested in that, but I would like to know whether I can get my hands on other kinds of novelty car horns. I'm interested specifically in either one that sarcastically claps slowly (for particularly boneheaded driving maneuvers) or one that yells "The accelerator is the pedal on the right!"—Steve

Joe: How about one that plays taps when you become a road rage victim?

Justin: I have to agree with Joe on this one. An obnoxious custom car horn is a surefire way to let fellow motorists in on your impotent nerd fury. Those misgivings aside, a simple Internet search will reveal dozens of e-tailers just waiting to sell you their custom car horns. But before buying, you should check your local traffic codes. Sarcastically clapping for the slow-moving state trooper in front of you could produce interesting results.

■■■

Dear Wise Guys:

I've been wondering about my insurance company's pre-existing-condition clause. If I died of a heart attack in a previous life, could the company deny my claim if I have a heart attack in my current life?—Hugh

Dan: Don't be ridiculous, Hugh. But here's something you should consider: Some plans offer what's called a post-existing compensation option, which pays benefits in one's next life for health costs incurred in one's current life. For example, in my last life, I was disfigured in a baking accident caused by faulty cake mix, and in this life I get a free lifetime supply of Betty Crocker Whipped Chocolate Frosting. Yes, I've grown tired of icing everything in sight — muffins, sticks of gum, neighbors' door knobs — but I want to get my money's worth.

■■■

Dear Wise Guys:

I come from a family full of strong opinions. My father and my sister have long argued about turning off lights when you leave a room. He thinks if you'll be back in less than 10 minutes then you should leave the light on. She thinks you should always turn the light off, no matter what. Who is right in terms of conserving energy?—Clearly Not the Brightest Bulb

Joe: I used to unplug my fish tank every time I left the room, but I kept having to buy new fish. Clearly, I don't know anything about electricity, so I called our good friends at Pepco to set the record straight. "Err on the side of conservation and turn the lights off," says Bob Hainey, Pepco's manager of media relations. (Can you believe these guys even answer our calls?) Hainey tells us that a light bulb doesn't require extra energy to start up, so you're not saving any energy by leaving it on. Looks like your dad was wrong.

Justin: But your sister's absolutism is also wrong. I mean, "turn the light off, no matter what" isn't going to go over well if there are still people in the room.

■■■

Dear Wise Guys:

Where does wind start/end (if it ever really does)? How?—A Cloud

Joe: It starts with the flap of a butterfly's wings, little cloud. Come on, you knew that. And it ends in twisters that burrow straight into the ground, filling the Earth with hot, angry air.

Justin: Which is why the Earth is round and floats in space like a giant balloon.

Dan: Don't forget the giant tortoise to which the balloon is tied. Its name is Doreen, which is Aramaic for "reptile of the universe."

Joe: I think you're just making up that last part.



Calories of each food item appear on a McDonald's drive-thru menu in New York, Friday July 18, 2008.

rule requiring them to post calorie counts right on the menu.

McDonald's and Burger King were among the chains that unveiled new menu boards Friday at scores of locations throughout the city, taking calorie information that had long been available on Web sites and tray liners and putting it front-and-center above the cash register.

The new rules are part of an anti-obesity campaign that has also included a recent citywide ban on artificial trans fats in restaurant food. The regulation was first passed in 2006 but was re-drafted after a court battle struck down the original version.

The calorie posting rule took effect in May, but legal action delayed enforcement until now. Starting Saturday, chains big enough to fall under the rule will face penalties of up to \$2,000 per store for not disclosing calorie information in a prominent spot on their menus, preferably next to the price.

On Friday, the numbers at some restaurants could be hard to read, and many places only offered calorie counts for a few top-selling items. A few chains still appeared to be ignoring

the rule, perhaps holding out hope that a court would block the plan, the first of its kind in any U.S. city. An industry lawsuit is pending.

Cathy Nonas, director of the health department's physical activity and nutrition program, said some delayed posting the data because they were afraid customers might change their eating habits.

"We want to help people make an informed decision at the time of purchasing," she said. "Obviously, we have an epidemic of obesity across the nation, and New York City is no different."

Other chains, including Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts and Wendy's have been phasing in calorie information, store by store, for several months - surprising some patrons who never realized that a single jelly doughnut has 270 calories, or that a grande mint mocha chip frappuccino with whipped cream packs a bigger caloric punch than a double cheeseburger.

Dietary guidelines for adults recommend about 2,000 calories a day, depending on age, gender and activity.

Still, some customers

grabbing burgers, fries and shakes this week seemed not to notice the new columns of calorie data.

Audrey and Kevin Carroll, visiting from Toronto, didn't see that the box of treats they grabbed for the kids at Cinnabon on their way out of town contained a whopping 850 calories per bun.

"That's why they call it fast food," said their traveling companion, Cynthia Kaufman, of New York's Long Island. "It's New York. If it's loud, and noisy, and you're in a hurry, and the kids are crying, who is going to stop and read the calories?"

To date, the lack of enforcement of the calorie-posting rules had meant haphazard compliance, and it remained unclear Friday how many of the estimated 2,500 covered restaurants would meet the deadline.

A few restaurants appeared to be caught completely off guard by the calorie rules, especially the homegrown fast-food chains that pepper New York City's outer boroughs.

"This has been an absolute nightmare," said Enrique Almela, director of operations at Singas Famous Pizza, which

has 17 restaurants, most in the borough of Queens.

The menu rule only applies to restaurants that serve standardized portion sizes and have 15 or more locations nationwide, a distinction that was intended to target fast-food giants. But in practice, the low threshold has swept up little-known outfits like Singas Famous Pizza and other local franchises that have never done nutritional testing before.

Almela spoke with The Associated Press from his car Wednesday as he rushed sample pizzas to a food laboratory. He said the calorie tests for his 35 different pizza combinations will cost \$10,000, and he doubts they will produce accurate data.

"I may put 15 pepperoni on a pie. Someone else may put 12. We don't measure the amount of cheese we put on," he said. "If you put up round-about numbers, how does that help anyone?"

The deadline also looked problematic for a unique class of New York City eateries: loosely affiliated, largely immigrant-owned restaurants that share the same name and sometimes the same suppliers, but operate independently.

Afghan Paper & Food Products, which distributes food and packaging materials to many of the eateries, said it was scrambling to get them calorie info.

"The stores are all calling and asking for information. We don't have it," said Mariam Mashriqi, a receptionist at the company.

In the meantime, Mashriqi said, some owners were paying for the laboratory tests themselves.

"These are small stores. They are barely making a profit," she said.

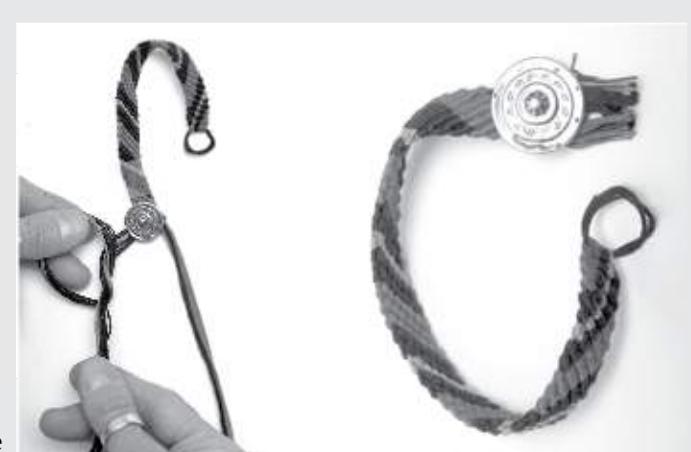
City health officials said restaurants have had ample time to prepare. Every restaurant licensed by the city got a letter this spring. Another 250 were issued formal warnings when health inspectors noticed that they hadn't yet complied.

A CUSTOM

From Page 21



Continue taking each strand on the left and knotting across to the right. Continue until the bracelet is the size of your wrist (or ankle). When it's the desired length, take the strand on the left and tie knots only halfway across the width of the bracelet (across four strands) and stop. Then take what is now the farthest left strand and knot only two strands and stop. (You're creating a square end to the bracelet.)



Using center strands, tie a button to the end of the bracelet. Pull the loose ends of the strands together and tie them off into two knots on each side of the button. Trim the ends to form little tassels.

Ledger's compelling Joker thrills, saddens fans

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—As Chris Finegan watched Heath Ledger's stunning portrayal of the Joker on Friday in "The Dark Knight," he couldn't help but think of another actor who wasn't on the screen: James Dean, who also died prematurely and tragically, nearly 53 years ago.

"Heath Ledger is going to have the same impact on our culture as James Dean did," said Finegan, one of many fans across the country who were both awed and saddened by Ledger's performance.

"He went out with a hell of a bang," said Finegan's son, Alex, 18, who wore a T-shirt emblazoned with Ledger's leering Joker face in cracked white makeup and those red lips frozen in a sickening smile. "He stole the show. It was everything I expected and more."

Manhattan movie theaters are not usually packed at 9 a.m. on weekdays, but there was not a free seat to be seen at the AMC Lincoln Square multiplex on Friday morning, and lines lengthened all day. Many fans were back after trying and failing—like the Finegans—to get into packed midnight performances.

Midnight stampede to 'Dark Knight' sets record

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nothing dark about Batman's first night at the box office. "The Dark Knight" lit up cash registers during its midnight debut, stealing away with a record \$18.5 million from 3,040 theaters, distributor Warner Bros. said Friday.

That bested the 2005 performance of "Star Wars Episode III: The Revenge of the Sith," which took in \$16.9 million during its midnight debut in 2,915 venues.

"The Dark Knight" figure did not include any of its 3 a.m. or 6 a.m. showings.

Media By Numbers, a tracking firm, said the Warner Bros. film, directed by Christopher Nolan, set a box office record for a midnight debut, bringing in \$18.5 million Friday from midnight screenings in 3,040 theaters—many of them open 24 hours. That bested the 2005 performance of "Star Wars Episode III: The Revenge of the Sith," which took in \$16.9 million at its debut. "The Dark Knight" figure didn't include any of its 3 a.m. or 6 a.m. showings.

"When we were leaving at 3 a.m. people were still streaming in," said Susan Pepsin, 31, who saw the film at the Arclight theater in Hollywood.

Of course, as the latest installment in the Batman series, "The Dark Knight" likely would have been an event even without the added interest over Ledger, who died at 28 in January of an accidental prescription drug overdose. But Ledger seemed at the top of everyone's mind. During the show, fans applauded many of the actor's particularly demonic moments.

"He was unbelievable," said Michael Loizou, a 23-year-old asset manager in Manhattan. "I had no idea he'd be THAT good." His and his colleague, Michael Holmgren, played hooky from work to see the film. They didn't get in trouble, though—their boss came, too.

"I was the ringleader," confessed John Pileggi, a big comic book and action-film fan. "It was intense, overwhelming," he said of Ledger's performance. "It's sad to say that it was the role of his life, because his life is over. He was so young. I have a son about his age, so I kept thinking about it."

Yet he and many other fans said they hoped the hype over the death wouldn't somehow diminish what they saw as the brilliance of the performance. And they said the portrayal was so absorbing that during the film they forgot about Ledger the man.

"The whole time you know it's Heath Ledger, but at the same time you have to remind yourself that it's him. He is so convincing," said Katie Burns, 23, who went to a midnight screening in Paramus, N.J.

Pepsin said her screening in Hollywood was interrupted by a fire alarm—and even that didn't ruin it. "The character is so crazy, I felt at times, Oh my God, I can't believe I'm watching this," said Pepsin, a financial planner. "These are images that will stay in my mind for a long time."

Online, "The Dark Knight," which also stars Christian Bale as Batman as well as Michael Caine, Aaron Eckhart, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Gary Oldman and

worthy of all these accolades."

The movie directed by Christopher Nolan and starring Christian Bale as Batman cost \$185 million to make, excluding money spent marketing, Fellman said. Critics have heaped praise on the movie—especially the late Heath Ledger's turn as the Joker, which has already generated whispers of a posthumous Oscar nomination.

"We're very proud of the film," said Dan Fellman, Warner's head of distribution. "It's the magic of the movie business, how one film just stands out above the others."



AP
In this image released by Warner Bros., Heath Ledger starring as The Joker, is shown in a scene with Christian Bale, starring as Batman in "The Dark Knight."

Morgan Freeman, was selling an average of about 12 tickets per second on the movie-ticket site Fandango.com.

The movie was Fandango's second best-selling movie in pre-sales - "Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith" was No. 1 - and made up 94 percent of this week's sales.

For Jared Yates, an engineer in St.

Louis, Ledger's performance was "perfect," and there was only one moment where he was reminded - and jarringly, too - of the actor's death.

"It was where Joker tells Batman that the two of them 'could do this forever,'" said Yates. Of course, the moviegoer was reminded that that wouldn't be possible.

Spears' role as mom expands after epic meltdown

ANTHONY McCARTNEY
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Less than eight months after an epic meltdown that led to a court taking away her children, Britney Spears is reclaiming her role as a mother—to the point where she may be with her boys nearly half the time.

Attorneys for the pop singer and ex-husband Kevin Federline reached an agreement Friday that allows Spears three visits a week from Sean Preston and Jayden James, including two overnights with potential for more. If all goes well, she could have 2-year-old Sean Preston and 1-year-old Jayden James roughly 40 percent of the time, her attorney, Laura Wasser, told The Associated Press.

The agreement not only increases Spears' time with her sons, but also removed need for a trial scheduled for next month to resolve lingering visitation and financial issues.

The positive change on the home front comes as Spears' career also seems to be rebounding. She is spending the summer working on



In this Dec. 1, 2007 file photo, singer Britney Spears poses on the press line at the Scandinavian Style Mansion party in Los Angeles.

a new album, recently taped an appearance that will be shown during Madonna's upcoming tour, and made a couple of well-received cameos on the television show "How I Met Your

Mother" earlier this year.

Spears' increased involvement in her boys' lives was almost unimaginable in January, when the 26-year-old twice had to be removed from her home by authorities and was committed to a psychiatric ward.

Federline was awarded full custody shortly thereafter and Spears did not see her sons for nearly two months.

Since then, Spears has gradually been granted longer visits. In late June, she was allotted one overnight visit a week with her sons, Wasser said.

Spears will gain more overnight visits between now and the end of the year, Wasser said. The agreement also includes a "slight increase" in child support payments to Federline and covers his attorney's fees.

"The fact is, it's a win for the family," Wasser said.

Federline's attorney, Mark Kaplan, whose fees have been paid by Spears and have been the subject of disputes, also lauded the outcome Friday.

"This has been a long ordeal and to have that over is something that makes him extremely happy," Kaplan said in

a brief statement after the courthouse meeting.

The couple were married in 2004 and finalized their divorce last July and have wrangling over custody issues for several months since then.

Kaplan declined to discuss specifics of the agreement, which still needs to be filed to Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner Scott Gordon. Gordon met with Wasser and Kaplan for more than 40 minutes Friday, but did not issue any rulings or take up the case in open court.

Friday's agreement is fairly typical of custody disputes even if the parties are not, said Charlotte Goldberg, a family law professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

"The courts do like parties to agree to custody rather than go through a trial," she said.

A trial would have almost certainly garnered throngs of reporters and photographers, which Goldberg said could have stymied Spears' progress.

"I think for Britney's sake, it would be better to avoid more publicity," Goldberg said.

The scene Friday was in stark contrast to previous court appearances, when Spears has been mobbed by photographers and in one incident, set foot in the courthouse in cocktail party attire only to suddenly leave before attending her hearing.

The cameras came Friday. Spears did not.

Wasser said Spears has been motivated in recent months by her children and re-establishing her career, which eight months ago seemed to be at teetering as her personal life.

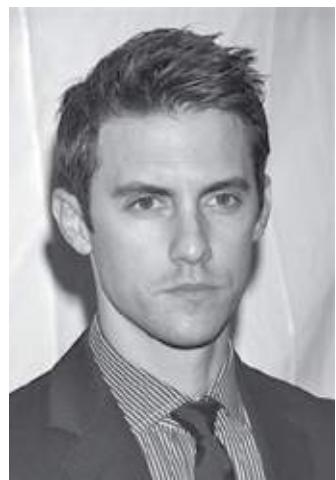
Her legal woes, however, are not over.

A hearing has been scheduled for July 31 about whether her father, James Spears, will continue to control her personal and financial affairs. Once that is resolved, a misdemeanor driving without a license charge can be dealt with.

But Wasser acknowledged that Spears has come a long way in eight months.

"The difference from the beginning of this year to now is astonishing," Wasser said.

Kardashian does hard time: 3 hours



In this May 12, 2008, file photo, actor Milo Ventimiglia arrives at the NBC Universal Experience in New York.

Ventimiglia discusses 'Heroes,' Mideast trip

NEW YORK (AP)—“Iron Man” isn’t the only superhero to visit the Middle East this summer. Milo Ventimiglia, who plays power-absorbing Peter Petrelli on NBC’s “Heroes,” traveled to the region last week as part of a USO tour of U.S. bases in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

He met many soldiers who were familiar with his show, and had strong opinions about his character’s nemesis, Sylar (played diabolically by Zachary Quinto).

“When I was over in Iraq and Afghanistan, a lot of soldiers were like, ‘Dude, will you just kill Sylar already? Will you just get rid of him?’” Ventimiglia told The Associated Press during a telephone interview this week. “And I’m like, ‘Man, I don’t know if you’re gonna want that just yet. I think you’re going to be very surprised as to what happens.’”

NBC-released video teasers for the series’ third season, premiering Sept. 22, promote the theme of the next “Heroes” chapter, titled “Villains.” In one clip, these ominous words pop up: “Good will battle evil. Because in every hero, there could be a villain.”

In that case, could Peter—one of the so-called good guys—wind up swapping places with Sylar?

Ventimiglia said he wouldn’t disagree with that theory. He also said Volume Three will be “so good”—a step in the right direction from season two, which was criticized heavily by fans for its draggy plotlines, among other complaints.

“I’m a tough critic,” Ventimiglia said. “The first season, I remember the producers would come up to me ... after we’d all watch an episode, and they’d say, sort of, ‘What do you think?’ And I’d either hem or haw or say it was good or not. They kinda won me this year. The scripts are great, the feeling on set is nothing but fun. I mean, we’re really just doing some good work that I’m very proud of.”

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Khloe Kardashian’s stay in jail Friday may have been brief, but it did include a bit of drama: a jailhouse lockdown. The reality TV starlet spent roughly three hours in a Los Angeles area jail for violating probation stemming from a drunk driving arrest last year.

Shortly before her arrival, someone called in a bomb threat and the entire facility had to be locked down, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s spokesman Steve Whitmore said.

The threat was not related to Kardashian’s arrival and she was placed in a holding cell for her safety, Whitmore said. The call turned out to be a hoax, he said.

Kardashian is the youngest daughter of late attorney Robert Kardashian and is featured on E! Entertainment Television’s “Keeping Up With the Kardashians” reality show.

A judge earlier this month sentenced the 24-year-old to up to 30 days in jail after she admitted violating her probation by failing to enroll in an alcohol education class and clean up roadside trash.

Jail overcrowding forced officials to release her early, just as they have with inmates, including other well-known personali-

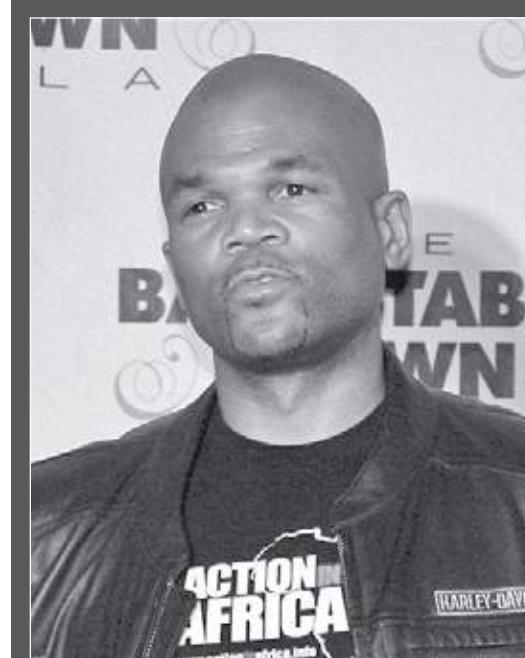


In this June 23, 2008 file photo, Television personality Khloe Kardashian poses on the press line at a pre-BET Awards party in Los Angeles.

ties such as Nicole Richie and Lindsay Lohan.

“We treated Ms. Kardashian

as we would any other inmate with similar charges and circumstances,” Whitmore said.



DMC undergoing surgery to remove blood clots

NEW YORK (AP)—Darryl “DMC” McDaniels of the legendary rap group Run-DMC was scheduled to undergo surgery at a New Jersey hospital Friday to remove two major blood clots in his left arm.

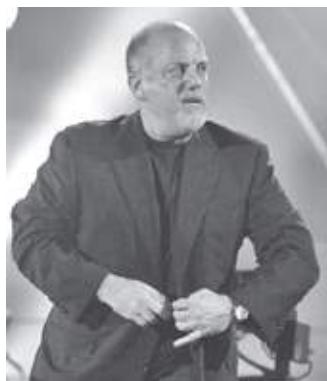
McDaniels, 44, had been suffering from pain and swelling in his arm when doctors discovered the clots, his publicist Tracey Miller told The Associated Press.

Miller did not know when McDaniels would be released, and said he had canceled a planned performance over the weekend.

In this May 2, 2008 file photo, Darryl “DMC” McDaniels arrives at the Barnstable Brown Derby party in Louisville, Ky.

AP

Sing us one last song at Shea, Piano Man



Billy Joel looks out into the crowd while performing at Shea Stadium Wednesday, July 16, 2008 in the Queens borough of New York.

The show came 43 years after the Beatles’ legendary show at Shea Stadium - the first concert at the ballpark. The concert came at the height of Beatlemania and demonstrated the sheer power of rock ‘n’ roll and the

Beatles: 55,000 screaming fans at a U.S. ballpark was virtually unheard-of at the time, and the show gave the Fab Four even more cachet among the Beatle-crazed American public.

The “Last Play at Shea” kicked off Wednesday with the first of two Joel shows at the ballpark, and the Beatles and baseball were on full display. Joel played three Beatles songs (“A Hard Day’s Night,” “Please, Please Me” and “She Loves You”) during Wednesday’s set, and introduced his signature “Piano Man” with “Take Me Out to the Ballgame.” He also played the national anthem to start the show.

“I want to thank the Beatles for letting us use their room. Best band that ever was, best band that ever will be,” Joel told fans Wednesday.

Dying woman’s hostility is tearing her sister apart

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Please help me—I am in pieces. My sister is dying of cancer. She has shut me out of her life and has become very hostile toward me. This is breaking my heart, and I don’t know how to deal with it. I have done nothing to offend her, and I don’t understand why she is acting this way.

I understand that my sister is in pain and afraid, but I need her in my life because I love her. What can I do?



Dear Abby

CARING SISTER IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR CARING SISTER: I’m sorry about the sad prognosis your sister received. Many years ago, a doctor named Elisabeth Kubler-Ross identified five distinct emotional stages that a dying person may go through after being diagnosed with a terminal illness. They are: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

However, people do not necessarily pass through all of these stages. Sometimes they get “stuck”—and it appears your sister hasn’t made it past the second stage. Spiritual and/or psychological counseling might help her. But if she’s unwilling to accept it, all you can do is let her know how much you love her, need her and will always miss her.

P.S. A grief support group might be very helpful for you, so check with the American Cancer Society. It can be reached by calling (800) 227-2345 or visiting www.cancer.org.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I were invited to a dinner party. Then our hostess told us that guests must bring their own plates and silverware or we would not be permitted to join the dinner. I thought it was extremely tacky; my husband saw no problem with it. What are your thoughts?

DINNER GUEST IN DENVER

DEAR DINNER GUEST: Let’s put it this way—your hostess’s request was highly unusual. Perhaps the woman didn’t have enough china and silverware to accommodate all the people she wanted to come. Of course, she could have provided paper plates and plastic flatware—and that’s what you should have brought so you wouldn’t have had to carry home and wash your dirty dishes.

P.S. If you chose to attend the woman’s dinner party knowing the circumstances, it’s not very nice to now be biting the hand that fed you.

DEAR ABBY: Now that it’s summer I need your help with one of your to-the-point witty comebacks. My husband and I are both fair-skinned. Skin cancer runs in both sides of our families. We always wear sunscreen and lather up our 8-month-old child as well.

Yesterday, a few friends at the pool made jokes about needing sunglasses in our presence because of the sun reflecting off our pale bodies. I became upset and left the pool. Is there something I can say to make a point and let these people know how rude they are when commenting on our lack of a suntan?

TANLESS IN SUGAR HILL, GA.

DEAR TANLESS: For many years the American Academy of Dermatology has urged everyone—regardless of skin tone—to avoid long-term exposure to the sun, and to always wear sunscreen, even on cloudy days. I see no reason to try and be witty. “Skin cancer runs in both sides of our family, and frankly, you should be careful, too,” is a simple way to convey your message. (Let a smile be your umbrella if they give you any flak.)

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: *Dear Abby*, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Job Vacancy Announcements

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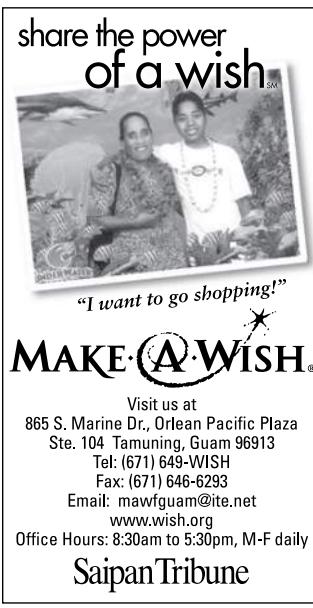
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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Choi leads Norman by a stroke at the British Open



SOUTHPORT, Eng-

land (AP)—Tiger Woods on crutches was supposed to be a chance for someone else to seize the spotlight at the British Open. Greg Norman wasn't the guy anyone had in mind. Neither was David Duval. Indeed, Royal Birkdale proved to be fertile ground for fairy tales on Friday.

K.J. Choi rolled in a 25-foot birdie on the final hole for a 3-under 67 in more gloom and wind along the Irish Sea, giving him his first lead in a major championship. It will be the second straight year he plays in the final group at the British Open going into the weekend.

But the biggest surprises were right behind him, starting with a pair of British Open champions who once were No. 1 in the world.

Norman barely touched a club in the month leading up to his 26th appearance in golf's oldest championship. The 53-year-old married tennis great Chris Evert three weeks ago, and a trip to England counts as the tail end of his honeymoon.

He wound up renewing his love affair with links golf, delivering great escapes over his final three holes for an even-par 70 that put his name atop the leaderboard for most of the afternoon until Choi birdied the final two holes.

Choi was at 1-under 139, one shot ahead of Norman.

"My expectations were almost nil coming in, to tell you the truth," Norman said. "My expectations are still realistically low, and I have to be that way. I can't sit here and say, 'OK, it's great. I'm playing well and I'm doing it.' I am playing well. I am doing it. But I still haven't been there for a long time."

His last victory was 10 years ago in Australia at the Greg Norman Holden International. He hasn't been this close to the lead at the halfway point of a major since he was leading the '96 Masters.

Duval knows that feeling.

His last victory was the Dunlop Phoenix in Japan at the end of 2001, the year he won his only major at Royal Lytham & St. Annes. What followed was a mysterious slump that included a half-dozen coaches, precious few rounds under par and an aloof player who found happiness in marriage and children.

For those waiting for another col-

lapse, Duval never showed a hint of it.

He chipped in for birdie at No. 11, kept damage to only a bogey when he found a pot bunker off the tee on the 13th, and bounced back with another birdie on the par-3 14th.

"I've been working toward greatness, not just getting back to making cuts and managing to play halfway decent," said Duval, who had made only one cut in 11 starts this year before arriving at Royal Birkdale. "I've been trying to take the long route and the hard route and try to get back to greatness."

"That story is yet to be told as to whether I can get back to that point or not," he said. "But that's what I strive for."

This wonderful story unfolding at Birkdale still has a long way to go.

It starts with Choi, a 37-year-old from South Korea who didn't think much of golf until a high school teacher handed him an instructional book by Jack Nicklaus. A seven-time winner on the PGA Tour—the most of any Asian player—he overcame a bogey on the first hole to play flawlessly in a steady 20 mph wind and occasional squirts of rain.

"I think today was probably my best round I've ever played at the British Open," said Choi, who trailed Sergio Garcia by two shots going into the third round at Carnoustie last year before finishing in a tie for eighth. "Everything worked the way I wanted it to."

The best finish belonged to Camilo Villegas of Colombia, whose lone victory came last year in Japan.

A marketing dream, Villegas is known as "Spider-Man" for splaying his body horizontally to read putts at surface level. He made everything over the final five holes—all birdies—for a tournament-best 65 that left him two shots behind.

"Let me tell you, when you get on the first tee, you never think about a score," said Villegas, who got into the British Open as an alternate when Kenny Perry decided not to come. "You just think about every single shot because you don't know how bad it can get, when the weather is going to get like it was yesterday morning. So you're just trying to grind every single shot. And that's what I did."

Villegas was at 141.

Duval and a half-dozen others were at 2-over 142, which is where more fairy tales in the making reside.

Padraig Harrington normally



AP

K.J. Choi of South Korea reacts after his birdie on the 18th to take the lead during the second round of the British Open Golf championship, at the Royal Birkdale golf course, Southport, England, Friday, July 18, 2008.

wouldn't fall into that category, but the defending champion injured his right wrist and wasn't sure he could even tee it up Thursday. The Irishman said there

was only a 50 percent chance he would finish his first round.

And the odds he would play his final four holes in 4 under and shoot 68 and

Mark Cavendish wins stage 13 of doping-tainted Tour



NIMES, France (AP)—Mark Cavendish of Britain won his fourth stage in this year's Tour de France and Cadel Evans of Australia retained the overall lead Friday in a race reeling from a string of doping scandals.

The stage victory was the second in a row for the Team Columbia rider. Leading a group sprint, Cavendish beat Australia's Robbie McEwen in second by nearly two bike lengths, while Roman Feillu of France was third.

"The first stage win was my favorite. Today's was the hardest," Cavendish said of the hot and wind-swept trek along the 182-kilometer (113.1-mile) trek from Narbonne to Nimes.

"Every win's a win," Cavendish said.

Evans retained the yellow jersey by finishing alongside his main rivals in the main pack. He holds a one-second lead over Frank Schleck of Luxembourg and is 38 seconds ahead of U.S. rider Christian Vande Velde in third.

Earlier Friday, the Saunier Duval team fired Italian rider Riccardo Ricco, winner of the sixth and ninth stages. He was removed from the race Thursday after testing positive for an advanced version of banned blood booster EPO.

Ricco, who was runner-up in the Giro d'Italia this year, was the biggest name among three riders who tested positive for EPO at the Tour this year. The result prompted his Saunier Duval team to quit the Tour.

French judicial officials filed preliminary charges Friday against Ricco for alleged "use of a toxic substance," said Antoine Leroy, state prosecutor in the town of Foix. If convicted, Ricco could face up to two years in prison.

Ricco, who was held overnight by police, was released Friday and ordered not to speak to anyone from his team. Leroy said Ricco had contested the claim that he had used EPO.

A police search of a hotel room where Ricco had stayed turned up medical equipment, such as syringes, catheters and medical bags, but no doping products, Leroy said.

The head of France's anti-doping agency, Pierre Bordry, said that Ricco had tested positive for CERA, or continuous erythropoietin receptor activa-

tor, an advanced version of EPO.

Mircera, the brand name for CERA made by Swiss-based Roche Holdings, helps users produce more red blood cells, company spokeswoman Claudia Schmitt said. It received U.S. and European approvals last year as a treatment for anemia caused by kidney failure.

The substance remains much longer in the body than regular EPO.

Schmitt said Roche has provided information about the treatment to the World Anti-Doping Agency, which has banned EPO for use by athletes.

Spanish riders Moises Duenas Nevaldo and Manuel Beltran were also ejected from the Tour this year for using EPO.

Also Friday, Saunier Duval fired Leonardo Piepoli, an Italian who won the 10th stage of the Tour, for "viola-

tion of the team's ethical code." A team spokesman declined to elaborate.

Bordry said Piepoli was one of several riders targeted because he had suspicious blood parameters in pre-Tour blood tests July 4 and 5 and because of "information from outside sources." Bordry would not say what the sources were, adding only that he was awaiting test results on Piepoli and other riders.

A law went into effect in France this month that makes anyone who produces, transports, acquires or possesses doping products liable for up to five years in prison and a €75,000 (US\$119,000) fine.

Before the new law went into effect,

possession of a doping product was not illegal.

Some critics said the law was too tough, and that athletes should be punished with sports sanctions, not legal sanctions.

Marlins' Moyer now 10-for-10 vs Marlins



MIA MI

(AP)—Veteran Philadelphia pitcher Jamie Moyer beat Florida for the 10th time in as many career starts, as the Phillies downed the Marlins 4-2 in the National League on Friday.

The 45-year-old Moyer allowed only four hits in six innings. All of his games against the Marlins have come in the past three years. He defeated them for the third time this month, and his ERA in five lifetime starts in Miami is a stunning 1.34.

The victory, combined with New York's loss Friday, put Philadelphia back on top of the NL East division.

Astros 2, Cubs 1

In Houston, Hunter Pence drove in the game-winning run with a double in the bottom of the ninth inning as Houston pipped Chicago.

The Astros began the ninth with a ground-rule double and Pence lined the first pitch he saw from Cubs reliever Bob Howry to the gap in left center.

Reds 5, Mets 2

In Cincinnati, the home side prevented New York's bid to match its franchise record of 11 straight victories.

Reds starter Bronson Arroyo allowed four hits over eight innings, giving him four wins from as many starts.

The Reds scored four times in the fifth despite getting only two balls out of the infield. A bases-loaded walk was followed by a two-run single and a hit batter with bases loaded.

Dodgers 8, Diamondbacks 7, 11 innings

In Phoenix, James Loney hom-

Packers prez backs GM, coach in Favre standoff



MILWAUKEE

(AP)—Green Bay Packers president Mark Murphy restated his support for general manager Ted Thompson and coach Mike McCarthy on Friday in the standoff with Brett Favre.

Murphy attended a meeting of the team's executive committee Friday. He was not available for comment afterward, but team spokesman Aaron Popkey said Murphy has "full confidence" in how Thompson and McCarthy are handling this matter.

Favre is having second thoughts about football after retiring in March. But the Packers have since committed to moving on without the three-time MVP, causing a public rift between the team and one of its greatest players.

Although the Packers are publicly owned, the seven-member executive committee meets in private and doesn't publicize its agenda. The meetings generally cover all aspects of the team's

ered leading off the 11th inning to snatch a win that saw Los Angeles draw level with Arizona atop the NL West.

Loney's home run was the Dodgers' third solo shot over the final five innings and the club's season-high fourth of the game.

Brewers 9, Giants 1

In San Francisco, C.C. Sabathia won his third straight start since joining Milwaukee, beating San Francisco.

The four-hitter was Sabathia's 21st career complete game and second straight.

Sabathia retired 17 straight batters until an error put a runner on first to start the seventh. A homer leading off the eighth was just the second hit off Sabathia and the home side's only run.

Sabathia, who struck out 10 and didn't walk a batter, also showed he can perform with the bat since being compelled to do so by his switch to the National League, doubling in the third for his third hit in 10 at-bats. All are extra-base hits, including two homers.

Cardinals 11, Padres 7

In St. Louis, Yadier Molina's two-run single with the bases loaded broke an eighth-inning tie and set up St. Louis' win over San Diego.

San Diego has lost four straight while St. Louis has won three straight.

The Cardinals loaded the bases with one out in the eighth and Molina then guided a soft liner past the glove of a diving second baseman.

Rockies 5, Pirates 2

In Denver, Matt Holliday, Brad Hawpe and Seth Smith

all homered to lead Colorado over Pittsburgh.

Smith's second homer of the season was the 11th inside-the-park home run in Rockies' history and second this season.

Braves 7, Nationals 6

In Atlanta, the home side survived a ninth-inning rally by Washington.

Brian McCann's three-run double gave Atlanta the lead in the third inning and they looked safe when leading 7-5 in the ninth. But after one Washington run, the Nationals had men on first and third with two outs when a fly out ended the game.

Angels 11, Red Sox 3

At Anaheim, California, the Los Angeles Angels extended their lead in the American League West division to a season-best seven games by beating the Boston Red Sox.

Angels slugger Garret Anderson went 4-for-4 from the plate, hitting the go-ahead solo homer and finishing with five RBIs to dominate the visiting pitchers.

Los Angeles have a major league-leading 58 victories, and moved to 20 games over .500 for the first time this year.

In a meeting of the two best teams in the AL, resuming from the All-Star break, defeat dropped the defending World Series champion Boston into second place in the AL East.

Twins 6, Rangers 0

In Minneapolis, free-swinging Texas—which has clearly the most runs in the majors—was shut out for the first time this season by Minnesota.

Twins starter Glen Perkins pitched six innings, allowing only three hits.

It was the first time Texas has

been shut out since last August, co-incidentally also against Minnesota.

The Twins got four runs on five singles in the seventh to take a grip on the game.

Rays 2, Blue Jays 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Tampa Bay relished a return to its home ballpark, snapping a seven-game losing streak by edging Toronto.

Ben Zobrist provided the runs with a two-run homer in the seventh and pitcher James Shields allowed just one run over seven innings.

The win was enough for the Rays to reclaim leadership of the AL East, half a game ahead of Boston.

Toronto has lost six of seven games against Tampa Bay this season.

Yankees 7, Athletics 1

In New York, Robinson Cano hit a three-run homer to power New York to a comfortable win over Oakland.

Alex Rodriguez also connected for New York, and had three hits.

Yankees pitchers combined to retire the final 14 Oakland batters.

The A's, who won six of their previous seven at Yankee Stadium, have lost three straight overall for the first time since May.

White Sox 9, Royals 5

In Chicago, the home side laid on six runs and seven hits in the opening inning to set up the victory over Kansas City.

Jermaine Dye's two-run single highlighted the White Sox' opening salvo. Dye went 3-for-4 with a walk in a productive game.

The White Sox had 22 hits against Texas in their final game

executive director of the NFL Players Association after his playing days. He took over for longtime Packers top executive Bob Harlan in January. Before joining the Packers, Murphy was the athletic director at Northwestern.

Speaking on the Packers' statewide tour with fans last week, Murphy expressed support for Thompson and McCarthy regarding Favre.

Favre has flip-flopped before about his football future, but never like this. He teased the Packers earlier in the offseason and seemed set to unretire in late March, only to change his mind once again. His 11th-hour desire to unretire drew a decidedly lukewarm reception from the team this time.

So Favre's agent asked the Packers to release him from his contract last week, something Thompson has said the Packers have no plans to do. Releasing Favre would allow him to sign with any team he wants—perhaps even division rival Minnesota.

Melvin Mora also homered for the Orioles.

The Tigers were 4-for-15 with runners in scoring position.

Mariners 8, Indians 2

In Seattle, the home side ended Cleveland's five-game winning streak.

Raul Ibanez hit a grand slam for the Mariners, backing another strong start from pitcher Felix Hernandez, who struck out eight and gave up only two runs in six innings in his second start since returning from an ankle injury.

Cleveland gave up five unearned runs in the second, sliding to its 10th consecutive road loss.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	56	39	.589	—
Boston	57	41	.582	1/2
New York	51	45	.531	5 1/2
Toronto	47	49	.490	9 1/2
Baltimore	46	49	.484	10

Central Division

Chicago	55	40	.579	—
Minnesota	54	42	.563	1 1/2
Detroit	48	48	.500	7 1/2
Kansas City	43	54	.443	13
Cleveland	41	54	.432	14

West Division

Los Angeles	58	38	.604	—
Oakland	51	45	.531	7
Texas	50	47	.515	8 1/2
Seattle	38	58	.396	20

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	53	44	.546	—
New York	52	45	.536	1
Florida	50	46	.521	2 1/2
Atlanta	46	50	.479	6 1/2
Washington	36	61	.371	17

Central Division

Chicago	57	39	.594	—
St. Louis	55	43	.561	3
Milwaukee	53	43	.552	4
Cincinnati	47	51	.480	11
Houston	45	51	.469	12
Pittsburgh	44	52	.458	13

West Division

Arizona	47	49	.490	—
Los Angeles	47	49	.490	—
Colorado	41	57	.418	7
San Francisco	40	56	.417	7
San Diego	37	60	.381	10 1/2

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 7, Oakland 1

Magnolia barges into Final 4



ANTIPO-LO CITY, Philippines—The Coca-Cola Tigers put up tremendous intensity and energy but seemed to forget how to shoot, enabling the Magnolia Beverage Masters to book the last slot in the 2008 Smart PBA Fiesta Conference Final Four.

The Beverage Masters beat out the Tigers, 78-60, in their knockout tussle last night at the Ynares Center here, gaining the right to challenge the Air21 Express in a best-of-seven semifinals showdown.

The Final Four begins Sunday at the Astrodome in Pasay with Barangay Ginebra and Red Bull pitted in the other semis match-up.

"We're tight offensively but our defense held on," said coach Siot Tanquingcen as they

overcame the Tigers for a second straight Fiesta Conference semifinals and sixth semis in the last eight PBA tourneys.

The Beverage Masters did struggle at the start but slowly picked up their game, winning the game without yielding the lead at anytime in the contest.

It helped that the Tigers practically threw bricks in the contest.

Coca-Cola shot a league all-time low of 20 percent in the entire contest and franchise-lows of 9.5 percent in the first quarter and 17.5 percent in the first half.

"I think it's a result of a little of our defense and their poor shooting. We had a hand in their every shot," said Tanquingcen.

Amal McCaskill, Lordy Tugade and Dondon Hontiveros played well on both ends of the

court, leading the team to the semis against the Express.

McCaskill said he's well familiar with Steven Thomas' game, expressing confidence Magnolia will emerge victorious.

Tanquingcen thought it's difficult to play Air21, believing their only advantage against the Express is their being the more experienced team.

Chances are Air21 will play minus Thomas at the start of the semis Sunday as he's been invited to attend the Cleveland Cavaliers' training camp. His original plan was to return Saturday after attending just the tryouts for the Korean league in Las Vegas.

"Minus Steven, it would be very difficult but not impossible to make an upset. It would depend on how my players are going to take it mentally," said

Air21 coach Bo Perasol Magnolia and Coca-Cola figured in a tough defensive battle in the first half ending in the Beverage Masters' favor at 29-25.

The Tigers trailed by as many as nine points but scored five charities in the last 20 seconds to narrow the gap to four going into the final half.

Largely behind McCaskill's efforts, the Beverage Masters pulled away in the final half en route to sending the Tigers to the season exit.

Coca-Cola joined in the sideline deposited Fiesta Conference champion Alaska, All-Filipino ruler Sta. Lucia, Talk n Text, Purefoods and Welcoat.

Magnolia 78 — McCaskill 18, Tugade 14, Hontiveros 14, Cortez 9, Pingris 6, Ildefonso 6, Racela 5, Pena 3, Bono 2, Gon-



WWW.PBA.COM.PH

Magnolia import Amal McCaskill goes one-on-one against Coca-Cola's Jaxon Dixon in the rubber match of their best-of-three quarterfinal game in the 2008 Smart PBA Fiesta Conference.

zales 1, Villanueva 0, Tolomia 0.

Coca-Cola 60 — Buenafe 22, Dixon 16, Taulava 9, Belasco 4, Macapagal 3, Dean 2, Cabagnot 2,

Telan 2, Catli 0, Dimaunahan 0.

Quarterscores: 15-12, 29-25, 52-41, 78-60. (www.pba.com.ph)

ELIGIBILITY

From Page 28

in the case of expatriates, temporary absence from the country/territory of their residence) for purposes such as education and sports training, military service and health care and other legitimate absences of a like kind shall be considered as residency."

During the Charter Review Committee meeting in Nadi, the group ruled in favor of allowing expatriates and those who meet the residency requirement

to compete in the Games with a 3-2 vote. The committee has Michael A. White of the CNMI, Tina Brown of the Cook Islands, Sir John Dawanicura of Papua New Guinea, and Charles Cali of New Caledonia as members.

But Tupou said in a report to concerned parties that the recommendation concerning eligibility is "not clear cut."

"As can be seen from the report, much of the discussions by the CRC were with the eligibility requirement in Article 25 of the Constitution. A number of the submissions received re-

lated to eligibility. At the end, the CRC was divided on this 3/2 and the recommendation concerning eligibility is therefore not clear cut," Tupou said.

The Charter Review Committee head added he considered the recommendation of ONOC president Kevan Gosper to call on a meeting between representatives of PGC, OSFO (Oceania Sports Federations Organization) and ONOC to settle the issue.

"It should be held as soon as possible so that the result is evident before the Council meeting in the Cook Islands later this

year. We have to get the eligibility issue resolved by the Council Meeting in the Cook Islands so that PGAs will know who is eligible for the 2009 Mini Games and who is not," Tupou said.

"Such a meeting can only succeed if the parties come with good intention without any pre-conceived hard line stance and look to a better and prosperous future for the Pacific Games. The meeting should endeavor to be conducted in a non confrontational manner," he added.

Once a meeting was held, it is up to the Executive Board of the

Pacific Games Council to decide on the eligibility rules and other amendments to the Charter.

The NMI, through White, submitted a written recommendation to the Charter Review Committee.

The NMI suggested that non-citizens of a PGA should be allowed to compete in the Games provided they resided on the country/territory they are representing for at least five years.

Non-citizens of the country/territory they are representing were barred from competing during the 2007 South Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

The NMI was among the 22 members of the PGC that was affected by the eligibility rule adopted in Apia with 2006 Micro Games gold medalist Kana Aikawa and the NMI table tennis team, which won medals in the Micro Games and the 2005 Mini Games in Palau, missing the Games. Aikawa holds Canadian and Japanese passports, but had resided in the NMI for more than five years before moving to Hawaii to study, while members of the NMI table tennis team are mostly Chinese passport holders. (RM)

PTI

From Page 28

scoring from forwards Ed Diaz and Steve Rasa allowed the former Office of Public Auditor team to overtake PTI and lead 47-43 after the first half.

The game was tight as it could be in the third with both teams taking their best shot against each other.

Big men Edsel Mendoza and

Kelvin Fitial and guards Elmer Esdrelon and Ryan Sanciangco carried the fight for PTI, while Diaz, Rasa, and forward Tim Wesley led Autonomous.

However, after three quarters of play both teams were back to square one with the score all tied up at 64-all.

It was anybody's ballgame in the payoff period as the lead swung back and forth between the two top-flight teams.

Autonomous had the driver's

seat heading into the home-stretch but crucial defensive stops by PTI coupled with key baskets allowed the hosts to take the lead and eventually hold on to the seven-point win.

Despite limping off the court with an injury, Edsel Mendoza still topscored for PTI with 25 points, while Esdrelon and Sanciangco added 22 and 18 markers, respectively. Fitial also came up big, hitting 17.

PTI thus maintained its lofty

perch atop the government caging league's team standings with a 4-0 win-loss record.

Diaz, meanwhile, paced Autonomous in its second loss in six games with a game-high 28, while Rasa and Wesley combined for 27 more markers.

In the second game, Department of Public Works routed Commonwealth Ports Authority for only its second win in six outings, 89-72.

Edgar Pangelinan shot the lights out at the Oleai Sports Complex venue with 36 markers, while Jerome Reyes' 28 paced CPA, which is still looking for its first win after four games.

First Game

DPW 89 — E. Pangelinan 36, Takai 21, Iglesias 12, Tudela 7, Tomokane 4, G. Pangelinan 2.

CPA 72 — Reyes 28, Duenas 14, Camacho 11, De Gracia 7, Sablan 7, Taitingtong 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-12,

P. Rasa 8, Coldeen 4, Aaron 3, Pangelinan 3, Ada 2, Garon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-15, 43-47, 64-64, 95-88.

Second Game

DPW 89 — E. Pangelinan 36, Takai 21, Iglesias 12, Tudela 7, Tomokane 4, G. Pangelinan 2.

CPA 72 — Reyes 28, Duenas 14, Camacho 11, De Gracia 7, Sablan 7, Taitingtong 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-12,

40-27, 64-47, 89-72

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would do such a thing?

It might not have come about without that infamous 7-7 tie in Milwaukee in 2002. It happened in Selig's town with him sitting right there and it was a complete embarrassment. The crowd chanted "Let them play! Let them play!" Selig actually apologized for the outcome and the all-star game never seemed more inconsequential.

But very quickly Selig or his minions came up with something that would make the game as competitive as ever, a little prize called home-field advantage in the Fall Classic. There was tangible evidence of it Wednesday morning. The moment the AL scored the winning run on a sacrifice fly, Carlos Quentin of the White Sox was hugging Justin Morneau of

the Twins. The White Sox and Twins plain don't like each other. Chicago leads Minnesota by 1 1/2 games in the AL Central. You know why Quentin and Morneau were hugging each other? Because each guy feels his team can reach the World Series and have home-field advantage. Same goes for Derek Jeter of the Yankees and Dioner Navarro of the Tampa Bay Rays, two of the three squads fighting it out in the AL East.

Most of the long faces in the National League dugout belonged to Lou Piniella and the eight Chicago Cubs, the team with the most home wins in baseball, hoping for any edge they might get in October. If you're going to have this game, create some stakes. If players can't be seduced by a free trip to Hawaii, as is the case with the NFL's Pro Bowl, you know the game itself is worthless. And while most NBA players want

to be involved in all-star weekend, they've usually partied themselves to fatigue by time the game starts.

This All-Star Game wasn't just played, it was seriously contested. There were successful sacrifice attempts, stolen bases, tight plays at the plate, tough managerial decisions, even umpire errors. The only thing missing was the managers didn't come out and raise hell like they normally would. But there was no mistaking Jeter standing on that top dugout step, peering over the railing for the entire five hours, rooting for the AL as if it was a deciding game in the World Series.

OK, a few guys left the premises early. One of them was Alex Rodriguez. Most of the criticism directed at A-Rod is of the petty or salacious variety, what strip club he's exiting or some silliness mostly only the New York tabloids care about. And I suppose

leaving an all-star game early, which amounts to an excused absence, isn't the most egregious mistake in the world.

But A-Rod, who has been in New York long enough to know his profile and his contract bring extra scrutiny, has to know everything he does publicly has consequences. For a guy who cares about his image so much, this was just another unnecessary misstep. Does it tell us about the difference between the two that A-Rod left the stadium in the town where he lives while Jeter stayed until the very last pitch, cheering on his teammates for a night?

Most of the fans probably didn't notice A-Rod wasn't in the dugout because they were too busy boozing Jonathan Papelbon, the Red Sox closer who didn't like being booed in New York the day after he said he deserved to close the game as much as Yankee god Mariano Rivera. Talk about being seriously misguided. Thankfully,

his manager Tuesday night and every night, Francona, has a ton more perspective.

I'm still stunned when young players reveal their own self-absorption, then get angry at the media or fans for calling them on it. Papelbon thought what, that he was going to be cheered in Yankee Stadium? You don't want your wife to be booed in New York? Don't bring her. What Red Sox player wouldn't know the consequences of showing up in a Red Sox uniform in New York, no matter the circumstances?

The Red Sox could be the luckiest team in the league, to have Francona as manager. The Rays, trailing Francona's Sox by a half-game in the AL East, had asked that Scott Kazmir, their young ace who spent a recent stretch on the disabled list, not be used if at all possible. Francona used Kazmir only when he had not a single player left in the dugout or bullpen, and tight

shots of Francona showed how concerned he was not just about honoring the request, but about the kid's arm. Thankfully, the AL won the game in the bottom of the 15th and Kazmir didn't have to throw another pitch. Francona always seems to make the right call at the right time, and always without calling any attention to himself.

The attention, rightfully so, went to baseball's greatest legends and the most legendary sports cathedral in the United States for the first, oh, two or three hours of the night. A pretty compelling baseball game followed.

The American League representative, come mid-October, can thank Michael Young for hitting the game-winning sacrifice fly, and folks who prefer baseball as it's meant to be played to some lifeless exhibition can thank not just the all-stars, but the commissioner who set it all up to actually matter.



Choi leads Norman by a stroke at the British Open

Tiger Woods on crutches was supposed to be a chance for someone else to seize the spotlight at the British Open. Greg Norman wasn't the guy anyone had in mind.

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Magnolia barges into Final 4

The Coca-Cola Tigers put up tremendous intensity and energy but seemed to forget how to shoot, enabling the Magnolia Beverage Masters to book the last slot in the 2008 Smart PBA Fiesta Conference Final Four.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Eligibility rules for Pacific Games up for review

With the Pacific Games Council General Assembly a mere two months away, the chairman of the PGC Charter Review Committee is calling on a meeting that would settle the dispute on the eligibility rules for next year's Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

The council is scheduled to meet from Sept. 19 to 22 in the Cook Islands to adopt amendments to the PGC Charter, particularly Section 25, which deals with eligibility.

Amendments were based on the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee, which met twice to discuss changes in the charter. The first meeting was held in Auckland, New Zealand, last Dec. 2, while the second one took place in Nadi, Fiji, on March 12 during the Oceania National Olympic Committee General Assembly.

The committee, which David Tupou of Tonga chaired, deliberated on the changes suggested by several PGAs, including those from the Northern Mariana Islands.

Suggestions of the various PGAs regarding the eligibility rules were best reflected on the recommended revised Charter



The CNMI delegation to the 2006 Pacific Mini Games in Palau parade during the opening ceremony of the quadrennial games held in Koror.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

submitted by Andrew Minogue of Samoa.

Contents of Article 25, Section D which discusses citizenship and residency conditions

for inclusion in a team selected by the PGC to represent its country/territory are as follows: "Be either a citizen of the country/territory the athlete is to rep-

resent at the Games and a resident of that country/territory for a period of not less than five years (cumulatively, whether consecutive or not); or, if not a citizen of

the country/territory the athlete is to represent, be a resident of the country/territory for a consecutive period of five years up to and including the deadline for individu-

al entries"; and "for the avoidance of doubt the temporary absence of an athlete from the country/territory of their citizenship (or,

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PTI keeps perfect record alive in win against ATM



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

PTI president and CEO Ricardo Delgado defends against Autonomous swimmer Ed Diaz in their 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League game Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Buoyed by the presence of company president and CEO Ricardo Delgado, PTI rallied to beat defending champion Autonomous, 95-88, last Wednesday in the 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League.

Delgado flew to Saipan aboard the final Manila-Saipan flight of Continental Micronesia to grace the opening of the company's PTI Express Center at the TSL Plaza in Garapan then suited up for the team a short time later.

With a number of PTI employees and their fans present at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, the Dolphins and Autonomous played a nip-and-tuck first quarter that resulted in PTI taking a candlestick, 16-15 spread.

Autonomous, however, would return the complement in the second stanza, as strong

See **PTI** on Page 27

By MICHAEL WILBON
The Washington Post



Bud sprouts a fine idea

I was both foolish enough and fortunate enough to stay with Tuesday night's All-Star Game until the last drop. Foolish because it lasted 4 hours 50 minutes, took 453 pitches and ended at nearly 1:40 Wednesday morning. Fortunate because it was a game of both great consequence and theater, something the NFL and NBA all-star contests simply don't produce.

Very possibly, with the Yankees 5 1/2 games out of a playoff spot, it could also have been the last major event in Yankee Stadium before it's put out to pasture. Perhaps the game needed 15 innings to be resolved since it was a night that had a hundred sidebars, from a Red Sox player, J.D. Drew, winning All-Star Game MVP in Yankee Stadium to American League Manager Terry Francona trying to honor a rival's request not to ruin a young ace's arm before the pennant race between those two teams resumes Thursday night.

Still, any discussion of the 79th All-Star Game and the American League's 4-3 victory ought to begin with a tip of the cap to Commissioner Bud Selig. There wasn't a lot of love expressed for Selig at the time, when MLB decided to award World Series home-field advantage to the winner of the all-star game. Who

See **BUD** on Page 27